



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2011

No. 140

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 20, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORMER SENATOR CHARLES H. PERCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it was with great sadness that we received the news this past weekend of the passing of one of my long-time family friends and one of the most dedicated public servants I've ever had the privilege of knowing or serving with. I'm referring, of course, to Senator Charles Percy, who passed away on Saturday morning at the age of 91.

Senator Percy was someone whom I first met when I was a kid at summer

camp in Colorado. Tragically, his daughter Valerie had been murdered. And, of course, her twin is Sharon Percy Rockefeller, who serves with great distinction as the head of the WETA board and who has many other civic duties here in Washington, DC.

I met Senator Percy when we were at Valerie Lodge, which was named for his daughter, the camp in California; and at that moment, Mr. Speaker, I saw someone who was clearly very dedicated and extraordinarily principled. His entire life was dedicated to public service and to doing everything he possibly could to ensure that life was better for all around him.

I came to Congress a little more than a decade after I'd met him when I was at summer camp. He immediately took me under his wing, and he made the pilgrimage from the Senate here to the House of Representatives, and visited me in my office several times. I took my first trip with him to Mexico, and it was the U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Conference. I remember very vividly nearly three decades ago—well, actually, three decades ago—what it is that he said, Mr. Speaker.

He talked about the challenge and the relationship between the United States and Mexico, and he characterized his remarks as it related to his twin daughters, Sharon and Valerie. In that speech, he said, So many people talk about twins and the similarities. He said, For me, the greatness is to look at the differences between the two.

He carried that personal message as he referred to the challenging relationship between the United States of America and Mexico, and I was struck by that. He was chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and I was privileged to serve two terms here in the House while he served in the Senate.

So I want to say to his wonderful wife, Loraine, and to all of the other

children and relatives and friends of Senator Charles Percy that he lived an amazing life. It was one that was an inspiration to me, and I will greatly miss him.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF IMOGENE JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Imogene Johnson of Okemah, Oklahoma, who passed away on September 14, 2011, at the age of 90.

Imi, as we all knew her, was a very close friend of the Boren family, and I can remember seeing her face at some of my earliest campaign events. She was always there.

She was the wife of Oklahoma Fourth District Congressman Glen D. Johnson, Sr., and the mother to Glen D. Johnson, Jr., the former speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and now our current Chancellor for Higher Education. She supported both her husband and her son faithfully, and I know her son especially will miss her.

Imi was a civic leader and a dedicated public servant. She was a member of the Okemah Chamber of Commerce, an active member and past president of the American Legion Auxiliary, and a member of the PEO. In 1999, the city of Okemah honored her by inducting her into the Okemah Hall of Fame for her dedication to her hometown.

Again, Imi was truly an inspiration to her beloved Oklahoma, and I am honored to have called her a friend. I know she has her son and other family scattered across the State of Oklahoma, particularly in Okemah. She has touched them and many, many other Oklahomans. Again, we will greatly miss her.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

H6239

THE DEATH OF U.S. SENATOR CHARLES H. PERCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who served Illinois, our country, and people from other nations around the world for decades before his death this weekend at age 91. That man is Senator Charles H. Percy of Illinois.

Already, his life, legend, and list of accomplishments as a Senator, a statesman, and a larger-than-life political figure are well documented. Others have articulated these things far better than I could today, and I am confident that history will record them well.

But, Mr. Speaker, what I wish to convey today are the warm and wonderful stories and the testimonies about Chuck Percy that have only come to me from those who knew him and loved him and from those whose views and sentiments I hold in the highest regard. Their stories are not always well suited for publication or for statements on the House or Senate floor; but they are funny, warm, endearing, and genuine. They reflect the incredible love of life, humanity, and humor that made working for or with Senator Percy so incomparable. These volunteers, former Members, and political leaders cannot address the House about him today; but I can, and it is my honor to do so.

They are some of the finest leaders of Illinois today, like State Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka, who launched her first campaign for office years ago after serving as a Percy campaign coordinator. They are State Treasurer Dan Rutherford and U.S. Senator MARK KIRK, who served on the Youth for Percy brigade. They are former Congresswoman and U.S. Labor Secretary Lynn Martin, whose very first campaign as a volunteer was to help elect Chuck Percy. Then you've just heard from Representative DAVE DREIER on his reflections of his being with Chuck Percy.

If you talk to them, they will say that his enthusiasm and commitment to making a better State, country, and world are what motivated them to answer the call and launch their own political careers. His energy and enthusiasm, his openness to differing views, and his passion for improvement were infectious. They will tell you of a dark moment of loss or sadness or disappointment in their lives when he was there for them with a loving phone call or note. He was, in a word, an inspiration to all of them.

They are former Illinois Governors Jim Thompson and Jim Edgar, whose natural talents thrived under Chuck Percy's guidance and inspiration. He saw in them the makings of outstanding leaders, and they succeeded in their own rights. He never looked over his shoulder, worrying about those who might challenge his own leadership. He embraced them, encouraged them, and

made their success his success. Unlike others in politics today, his generosity to others was boundless and without the slightest hint of envy or competitiveness. With Chuck Percy, there was no zero sum; there were only pluses for everyone.

They also are the other leaders outside of Illinois, like the former HUD Secretary and USTR, Ambassador Carla Hills, who first headed Percy's Alliance to Save Energy in the 1970s when it became clear to Percy that our reliance on foreign oil was unsustainable.

□ 1210

They are former Senator Fred Thompson, in whom Percy saw a brilliant prosecutor and future star of the Senate. They are those who went on to become leaders in their own countries, like the late Prime Minister of India, Rajiv Gandhi and President of Lebanon Rafic Hariri, both of whom strove for peace and tragically were cut down by assassination.

They are Federal district and appellate judges and a Supreme Court Justice, whose service to our country might never have been possible were it not for the fact that Chuck Percy believed in them and believed that the cronyism and corruption in judicial selection must end. He saw in them a commitment to the law, the Constitution, and justice, and with them helped to transform the Illinois bar from one of the most corrupt in the country to one of the most respected.

Last but not least, there are thousands of staff members and volunteers whose lives were forever changed and guided by this dear man whom they referred to simply as "CHP" or "The Senator." They are a formidable network of outstanding individuals who are as devoted to him as they are to each other and to public service. Each of them has gone on to do good things because of the confidence that he inspired in them and his belief that everything is possible if only you want to work hard enough for it.

They are my constituents and volunteers. They are my chief of staff, Kathy Lydon, and chief of volunteers, Carolyn Stillman, and many others and all the outstanding people that I have met through their fellowship. They are hundreds of Illinois and Washington businessmen, lawyers, teachers, homemakers, and, yes, even reporters whose lives were forever changed by this very special man.

To a one, they will say, "There is no one, no one quite like Chuck Percy."

So today, Mr. Speaker, I want to say to them and to the Percy family, Loraine, Sharon, and Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER, Roger and Penny, Gail and Wade, Mark and Leslee, and all of their wonderful children, grandchildren, and families, our thoughts and prayers are with you. We thank you for sharing this wonderful man with us, with the people of Illinois, America, and the world.

HONORING CASSANDRA LLOYD WARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to some great Americans. I want to join my colleague from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) in recognizing the extraordinary life and work of Senator Charles Percy. He will certainly be missed. Also, I want to extend condolences to the Mondale and Kennedy families, who also lost a daughter this weekend at the young age of 51.

But, Mr. Speaker, I have come to the well today to pay tribute to another great American, to a friend in North Carolina who has lost a long but courageous battle to breast cancer at the age of 51. Mrs. Cassandra Lloyd Ward was the daughter of Johnnie and Mary Lloyd of Williamston, North Carolina. She was also the wife of Mr. Everett B. Ward. For 29 long years, they were married. Everett is a well-respected public servant in North Carolina with our State Department of Transportation.

Cassandra was a career educator in Wake County, North Carolina. Many of you will recognize that as our capital city of Raleigh. She worked for many years in the Wake County Public Schools. The epitome of educational excellence, Cassandra touched the lives of countless individuals who have now become productive citizens in our communities across America.

Cassandra was employed by the Wake County Public School System beginning with Youngsville Elementary, Henry Adams Elementary, Dillard Drive Elementary, and, finally, Forest Pines Elementary School. She was a lifelong member of the North Carolina Association of Educators.

Cassandra Ward, Mr. Speaker, was a graduate of Williamston High School in Martin County, North Carolina, also a graduate of historic St. Augustine's College in our capital city of Raleigh, which is an HBCU, a historically black college there in the Raleigh community.

As a member of Davie Street Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, Cassandra was a church leader, not only a member of the Presbyterian Church, but she was also a deacon in the church. She advocated that the church serve the least of these in our society. She was a member of a great sorority, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. In that capacity, as a member of the Alpha Theta Omega Chapter, she served and chaired many committees, particularly the Black Family/Black Heritage; Health, Social and Sisterly Relations; Salvation Army; and Christmas Stocking Stuffing committees. Those were a lot of committees.

And, Mr. Speaker, she was a very active individual. She also found time to be associated with the Gamma Sigma Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. She

was what was referred to as an archousa. It took me a while, Mr. Speaker, to figure out how to pronounce that word, but she was an archousa of Gamma Sigma Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Mr. Speaker, Cassandra Ward leaves a very, very loving family. In addition to her parents and her husband, she leaves three siblings, Johnnie Lloyd, Jr., Jarvis Lloyd, and one loving sister that she was extremely close to, Crystal Lloyd Williams, and her sister-in-law, Felecia Hardy, and her husband, Dr. James Hardy.

She is also survived by other relatives and friends, and especially her very special nieces and nephews: Johnnie Lloyd, III; Alecia Hardy, Jarvis Lloyd and Eboni, Jamie Hardy, Jamecia Hardy, Mary Noel Williams, and Gabrielle Williams. They all comprise the wonderful family of Cassandra Lloyd Ward.

I ask my colleagues today to join with me in honoring the life and work of this great American, Cassandra Lloyd Ward.

DON'T ASK DON'T TELL REPEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today is a very important day in our fight to achieve full equality for all Americans in the face of prejudices of various sorts. To commemorate, I want to read a very extraordinary document. It is headlined, "Don't Ask Don't Tell Repeal." It's an official communication.

"Today marks the end of 'Don't Ask Don't Tell.' The law is repealed. From this day forward, gay and lesbian soldiers may serve in our Army with the dignity and respect they deserve. Our rules, regulations, and policies reflect the repeal guidance issued by the Department of Defense and will apply uniformly without regard to sexual orientation, which is a personal and private matter.

"For over 236 years, the U.S. Army has been an extraordinary force for good in the world. Our soldiers are the most agile, adaptable, and capable warriors in history—and we are ready for this change.

"Over the last several months, our leaders, soldiers and Department of the Army civilians have discussed, trained, and prepared for this day. The President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs have certified that repeal is consistent with military readiness, effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruiting and retention. Your professionalism, leadership, and respect for your fellow soldiers will ensure that this effort is successful.

"At the heart of our success is adherence to the Army values. These standards not only infuse every facet of our culture and operations, but also guide us as we adapt to change. Loyalty,

duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage are not mere words to us—they are the very principles by which we live, train, and fight.

"Accordingly, we expect all personnel to follow our values by implementing the repeal fully, fairly, and in accordance with policy guidance. It is the duty of all personnel to treat each other with dignity and respect, while maintaining good order and discipline throughout our ranks. Doing so will help the U.S. Army remain the strength of the Nation."

It is signed by Raymond F. Chandler, III, the Sergeant Major of the Army; Raymond T. Odierno, General, United States Army Chief of Staff; and John M. McHugh, Secretary of the Army and, parenthetically, our former colleague on the Republican side.

□ 1220

Mr. Speaker, we have a history in this country of prejudice being enacted; and through the efforts of many people, the policy embodying that prejudice can be overcome. And as we debate any single effort to overcome prejudice, we are told that the effect of diminishing that prejudice, the effect of repealing that rule will be chaos, will be disorder, will be social unrest; and it is never true.

Seven years ago, the State I am privileged to represent in this House established same-sex marriage; and there were predictions of doom, predictions that this would be a terribly upsetting factor. None of those predictions have come true. Not a one. As we debated last year the repeal of the unfortunate statute which said that brave and patriotic gay and lesbian and bisexual and transgender members of the armed services would have to lie about who they were, would have to hide who they were or else lose the right to serve their country, a right which some evade but for which they were prepared to fight, we once again heard predictions that this would be disruptive, that it would cause diminution of the ability of our brave men and women to serve their purposes.

Let me predict today, Mr. Speaker, that every one of those prejudices 3 and 4 years from now will be proven as wrong as the predictions that same-sex marriage would be disorganizing. We will now see gay men and lesbians serving this country openly and proudly as they have been serving this country proudly, but unfortunately not openly, for some time. I hope people are making note of the predictions that were made on the floor of this House, in the Senate, and in the country about the negative consequences of "don't ask don't tell," because they will soon be shown to have been wholly false.

Finally, I want to commend Sergeant Major Chandler, General Odierno, and Secretary McHugh. This is a very profound and important document. They are acting in the highest traditions of their constitutional duty, of patriot-

ism, and of respect for our constitutional principles. I welcome this statement, and I believe it is going to be proven to be a harbinger of a situation in which the full integration of gay and lesbian and bisexual and transgender members of the military goes forward with no negative consequences, with all of the positive consequences that come from respecting people and abolishing prejudice.

REMEMBERING SENATOR CHARLES PERCY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to pay tribute to a great American who lived in the State of Illinois, who represented it and the country well, Senator Charles Percy.

I recall that when Senator Percy was elected, I was a young schoolteacher, community activist. I also was an individual who interacted with lots of people who were very cynical about government, politics, whether or not there was any potential for change. So we had an opportunity to see in action one of the most forceful individuals in public life, one that you didn't describe necessarily as a Democrat or a Republican. You didn't characterize him as a conservative or a liberal. You really thought of Senator Percy as simply a good, solid United States Senator who represented well not only his constituents, but who provided leadership for the Nation and for the country.

I think I learned at that time the meaning of town hall meetings because Senator Percy would hold those; and although he was a Republican by political stripe—and many of the people where I lived and interacted with were Democrats in terms of political stripe—we just would turn out at Senator Percy's town halls to know what was taking place, what was going on, what was happening. I personally owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to him for helping to shape my own political philosophy, some of my political ideology, some of the things that I dream about and hope for and work towards.

And so I extend condolences to his family, wish them well, and know that America is a better place because Chuck Percy served in the United States Senate and served all of America.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

It is the beginning of a new work-week, and facing these decisive times we use this moment to be assured of Your presence and to tap the resources needed by the Members of this people's House to do their work as well as it can be done.

May they be led by Your spirit in the decisions they make. May they possess Your power as they steady themselves amid the pressures of persistent problems. May their faith in You deliver them from tensions that tear the House apart and from worries that might wear them out.

All this day and through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to pressing issues facing our Nation. Please hasten the day when justice and love shall dwell in the hearts of all peoples and rule the affairs of the nations of Earth.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RAISING TAXES DESTROYS JOBS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in August 2009, the President stated, "You do not raise taxes in a recession." This week, the same President proposed \$1.5 trillion in higher taxes as more than 14 million Americans are without jobs.

The President's tax increase proposal is based on the false belief that Big Government can spend the money of

hardworking American families better than the people who have earned it.

Tax increases destroy jobs. You cannot create jobs by increasing taxes. The merit of an economic policy can be tested by the amount of jobs it creates. So far, this President's policy has failed. Zero new jobs were created in August.

By passing numerous bills that focus on getting Americans back to work, House Republicans have focused on job creation since January. It's time for this administration to change from failed policies.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism. Our prayers are with Aiken and Barnwell, Assistant Solicitor Steve Kodman and Jennifer, and their sons, Patrick, Thomas, and Drew.

PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS DEFINED THE UNCERTAINTY THAT'S HURTING OUR ECONOMY

(Mr. HULTGREN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the opportunity to meet with a constituent of mine who also happens to be a minor celebrity. Rock Katschnig is the farmer who had the chance to ask President Obama last month about regulation and red tape coming from unelected and unaccountable bureaucracies, such as the EPA. The President's not-so-reassuring response: "If you hear something's happening but hasn't yet, don't always assume it's true." What President Obama said defines the uncertainty that has crippled our small businesses, entrepreneurs, and job creators and hamstrung our economic recovery.

Businesses don't plan just for tomorrow; they plan for next week, next month, and next year. All red tape, even if it hasn't happened yet, affects a business's decisions about hiring, expansion, and investment. That's why businesses are desperate for regulatory certainty, a message I heard not only from Rock, the farmer, but from countless other small business owners across my district. They want to grow, but they won't if they don't know what Washington will do to them. And that's why we are advancing our fall agenda to deliver that regulatory certainty so that small business owners and enterprises can invest, grow, create jobs, and get our economy moving again.

OLD WEST STYLE

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at a border forum in Brownsville, Texas, yesterday, Special Ranger Roland Garcia for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association testified about the results of the porous and unsecure border and how it affects ranch-

ers. He said the drug cartels are a fearsome enemy. "They intimidate landholders and instill terror in them—then fear follows."

The landholders are fearful to report cross-border activity because of the silent threat of reprisal and retaliation. The landholders feel that the government cannot protect them, their land, or their cattle. Texas ranchers fear that they may be targets of kidnappings for ransom. They have received death threats if they report illegal activity to law enforcement.

Ranger Garcia is concerned that landholders will start self-policing, in other words, organize and deal with the cartel intruders themselves—old west style. This testimony is yet more alarming evidence that the invasion of our borders by the cartels is a real national security threat to the people who live near our border.

And that's just the way it is.

MEDIA BIAS CHANGES ELECTION RESULTS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, liberal media bias gives Democratic candidates an extra 8 to 10 percentage points in a typical election, according to a study by UCLA political science professor Tim Groseclose. For example, Professor Groseclose found that if media bias didn't exist, JOHN MCCAIN would have defeated Barack Obama with 56 percent of the vote.

In his new book, "Left Turn: How Liberal Media Bias Distorts the American Mind," Professor Groseclose writes, "While the job of a journalist is to shine light on facts, they use a prism, bending the light and causing it to make a left turn. The end result is that we, the readers and viewers of the news, are more likely to see facts from the left side of the spectrum."

As we approach another important election year, the national media should give Americans the facts, not tell them what to think.

□ 1410

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2011.
Hon. JOHN BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER BOEHNER: I am writing to inform you of my resignation, effective immediately, from the House Judiciary Committee. It is my intention that this is a leave of absence with retention of my seniority and I fully intend to serve on this Committee again in the next Congress. If you have any

questions, please feel free to contact me directly, or your staff can contact my Legislative Director, Coby Dolan.

Sincerely,

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2011.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 20, 2011 at 11:18 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Res. 271.

Appointments:

Library of Congress Trust Fund Board.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2944) to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2944

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT OF SENTENCING REFORM ACT OF 1984.

For purposes of section 235(b) of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (18 U.S.C. 3551 note; Public Law 98-473; 98 Stat. 2032), as such section relates to chapter 311 of title 18, United States Code, and the United States Parole Commission, each reference in such section to "24 years" or "24-year period" shall be deemed a reference to "27 years" or "27-year period", respectively.

SEC. 3. PAROLE COMMISSION REPORT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Pa-

role Commission shall report to the Committees on the Judiciary of the Senate and House of Representatives the following:

(1) The number of offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction, including the number of Sexual or Violent Offender Registry offenders and Tier Levels offenders, for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(2) The number of hearings, record reviews and National Appeals Board considerations conducted by the Commission in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(3) The number of hearings conducted by the Commission by type of hearing in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(4) The number of record reviews conducted by the Commission by type of consideration in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(5) The number of warrants issued and executed compared to the number requested in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(6) The number of revocation determinations by the Commission in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(7) The distribution of initial offenses, including violent offenses, for offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(8) The distribution of subsequent offenses, including violent offenses, for offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(9) The percentage of offenders paroled or re-paroled compared with the percentage of offenders continued to expiration of sentence (less any good time) in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(10) The percentage of cases (except probable cause hearings and hearings in which a continuance was ordered) in which the primary and secondary examiner disagreed on the appropriate disposition of the case (the amount of time to be served before release), the release conditions to be imposed, or the reasons for the decision in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(11) The percentage of decisions within, above, or below the Commission's decision guidelines for Federal initial hearings (28 C.F.R. 2.20) and Federal and D.C. Code revocation hearings (28 C.F.R. 2.21).

(12) The percentage of revocation and non-revocation hearings in which the offender is accompanied by a representative in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(13) The number of administrative appeals and the action of the National Appeals Board in relation to those appeals in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(14) The projected number of Federal offenders that will be under the Commission's jurisdiction as of October 31, 2014.

(15) An estimate of the date on which no Federal offenders will remain under the Commission's jurisdiction.

(16) The Commission's annual expenditures for offenders in each type of case over which the Commission has jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

(17) The annual expenditures of the Commission, including travel expenses and the annual salaries of the members and staff of the Commission, for fiscal years 2006 through 2011.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2944 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on October 31, the authorization for the United States Parole Commission will expire. H.R. 2944, the United States Parole Commission Extension Act of 2011, extends the Commission's authorization for an additional 3 years.

I thank Judiciary Committee Ranking Member JOHN CONYERS, Crime Subcommittee Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER, and Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT, who is here on the floor today, for joining me in sponsoring this legislation.

The Parole Commission is an independent agency within the Department of Justice that supervises Federal offenders who are eligible for parole.

In 1984, Congress abolished Federal parole and replaced it with a determinate sentencing system. Federal offenders who were sentenced prior to November 1, 1987, were grandfathered under the parole system. The Parole Commission has been kept in place since then on a temporary basis to continue supervision of these Federal offenders.

In an effort to lower local crime rates, the District of Columbia followed the Federal example and also abolished parole. Under the new D.C. system, the D.C. Superior Court imposes a term of incarceration and supervised release.

Congress subsequently expanded the jurisdiction of the Parole Commission to include both parole and supervised release offenders from the District of Columbia. The group of offenders the Parole Commission was originally intended to supervise, Federal offenders who are eligible for parole, is a finite number of offenders that is growing smaller every year.

Today, however, the majority of the Commission's workload concerns the District of Columbia offenders. Like the population of Federal offenders eligible for parole, the parole-eligible D.C. offender population is also declining over time, although at a slower rate than Federal offenders. However, because all incoming offenders are now sentenced under the new law, the D.C. supervised release offender population is increasing.

At some point in the future, no Federal offenders will remain under the Commission's jurisdiction. At that time, Congress should assess the need to continue a Federal Parole Commission within the Justice Department.

In addition to extending the Commission authorization for 3 years, H.R. 2944 requires the Commission to submit a report to the House and Senate Judiciary Committee within 180 days of enactment. The commission last provided such a report in 2006.

H.R. 2944 requests the Commission to provide a variety of information relating to each category of offenders under the Commission's jurisdiction for fiscal years 2006 through 2011. The report asks the Commission to provide the projected number of Federal offenders who will be under the Commission's jurisdiction as of October 31, 2014, the date this authorization is set to expire. The report also requests an estimate of the date on which no Federal offenders will remain under the Commission's jurisdiction.

This report will inform Congress about where the Commission's resources are being directed, and enable us to decide whether any changes to the Commission are necessary to reflect its decreasing Federal parole responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I rise in support of H.R. 2944, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2944, which will extend the United States Parole Commission's authority for an additional 3 years. The current authority is set to expire October 31, 2011.

Although Federal parole was abolished with the passage of the Sentencing Reform Act effective November 1, 1987, those sentenced for an offense committed prior to the effect of the date of the abolition, and those sentences that have not yet been completed, remain eligible for parole.

Moreover, the Parole Commission has jurisdiction over other offenders, including the Uniform Code of Military Justice offenders and those under transfer treaties between the United States and other countries. Currently there are over 1,000 parole-eligible prisoners under the Commission authority.

The Sentencing Reform Act requires that release dates be set for all remaining offenders eligible for parole prior to the expiration of the Parole Commission. The Department of Justice is concerned that if the Commission's current authority is allowed to expire, Federal offenders who were sentenced for offenses committed prior to November 1, 1987, will begin to file motions for release under the Sentencing Reform Act, since the act requires such offenders to be given release dates 3 to 6 months prior to the expiration of the commission. We are now beyond that period at this point and no release dates have been set.

For this reason, it is important that we extend the U.S. Parole Commission's authority as soon as possible. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and thank the chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Texas, for his leadership.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2944.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

DEATH IN CUSTODY REPORTING ACT OF 2011

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2189) to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2189

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. STATE INFORMATION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS WHO DIE IN THE CUSTODY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year after the expiration of the period specified in subsection (c)(1) in which a State receives funds for a program referred to in subsection (c)(2), the State shall report to the Attorney General, on a quarterly basis and pursuant to guidelines established by the Attorney General, information regarding the death of any person who is detained, under arrest, or is in the process of being arrested, is en route to be incarcerated, or is incarcerated at a municipal or county jail, State prison, State-run boot camp prison, boot camp prison that is contracted out by the State, any State or local contract facility, or other local or State correctional facility (including any juvenile facility).

(b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—The report required by this section shall contain information that, at a minimum, includes—

- (1) the name, gender, race, ethnicity, and age of the deceased;
- (2) the date, time, and location of death;
- (3) the law enforcement agency that detained, arrested, or was in the process of arresting the deceased; and
- (4) a brief description of the circumstances surrounding the death.

(c) COMPLIANCE AND INELIGIBILITY.—

(1) COMPLIANCE DATE.—Each State shall have not more than 120 days from the date of enactment of this Act to comply with subsection (a), except that—

(A) the Attorney General may grant an additional 120 days to a State that is making good faith efforts to comply with such subsection; and

(B) the Attorney General shall waive the requirements of subsection (a) if compliance with such subsection by a State would be unconstitutional under the constitution of such State.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDS.—For any fiscal year after the expiration of the period specified in paragraph (1), a State that fails to comply with subsection (a), shall, at the discretion of the Attorney General, be subject to not more than a 10 percent reduction of the funds that would otherwise be allocated for that fiscal year to the State under subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.), whether characterized as the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Programs, the Local Government Law Enforcement Block Grants Program, the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, or otherwise.

(d) REALLOCATION.—Amounts not allocated under a program referred to in subsection (c)(2) to a State for failure to fully comply with subsection (a) shall be reallocated under that program to States that have not failed to comply with such subsection.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section the terms "boot camp prison" and "State" have the meaning given those terms, respectively, in section 901(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3791(a)).

(f) STUDY AND REPORT OF INFORMATION RELATING TO DEATHS IN CUSTODY.—

(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Attorney General shall carry out a study of the information reported under subsection (b) and section 3(a) to—

(A) determine means by which such information can be used to reduce the number of such deaths; and

(B) examine the relationship, if any, between the number of such deaths and the actions of management of such jails, prisons, and other specified facilities relating to such deaths.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall prepare and submit to Congress a report that contains the findings of the study required by paragraph (1).

SEC. 3. FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DEATH IN CUSTODY REPORTING REQUIREMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year (beginning after the date that is 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act), the head of each Federal law enforcement agency shall submit to the Attorney General a report (in such form and manner specified by the Attorney General) that contains information regarding the death of any person who is—

(1) detained, under arrest, or is in the process of being arrested by any officer of such Federal law enforcement agency (or by any State or local law enforcement officer while participating in and for purposes of a Federal law enforcement operation, task force, or any other Federal law enforcement capacity carried out by such Federal law enforcement agency); or

(2) en route to be incarcerated or detained, or is incarcerated or detained at—

(A) any facility (including any immigration or juvenile facility) pursuant to a contract with such Federal law enforcement agency;

(B) any State or local government facility used by such Federal law enforcement agency; or

(C) any Federal correctional facility or Federal pre-trial detention facility located within the United States.

(b) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—Each report required by this section shall include, at a minimum, the information required by section 2(b).

(c) STUDY AND REPORT.—Information reported under subsection (a) shall be analyzed and included in the study and report required by section 2(f).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2189 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2000 directed the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics to collect data on deaths that occur at two stages of the criminal justice system: deaths that occur in the process of arrest and deaths that occur in jails and prisons. The provisions of that Act expired in 2006.

H.R. 2189 reauthorizes this data collection program. It further directs the Attorney General not only to collect the data, but also to study the data to determine how to reduce deaths in custody in the future.

The bill also extends the reporting requirements to deaths that occur in Federal custody. And it ensures that those States that make a good faith effort to report this data to the Attorney General will not lose 10 percent of their Federal justice assistance funds if their data submissions are untimely.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics reports that between 2001 and 2006 there were over 18,000 state prisoner deaths. There were an additional 7,000 local prisoner deaths between 2000 and 2006.

□ 1420

More than nine out of every 10 State prisoner deaths were the result of illness or suicide, and eight out of 10 deaths at the local jail level were from those same causes. Although illness-related deaths have increased slightly in recent years, the homicide and suicide rates in the State prisons have dramatically decreased over the last 25 years.

The collection of this data will help Federal, State, and local governments examine the relationship between

deaths in custody and the proper management of jail and prison facilities. It will also provide important information to Congress on any need to improve Federal custody procedures.

Because the Bureau of Justice Statistics has continued to collect the information even though the prior law has expired, this bill will not impose any new costs on the agency.

The House passed similar legislation in the 110th and the 111th Congresses with overwhelming bipartisan support. I want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) for introducing this bill and for his interest and knowledge of the subject. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to support H.R. 2189, the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2011.

The bill would require local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies to report to the Department of Justice information about deaths of individuals which occur while in their custody. We've learned from history about how useful this information can be.

In the 1980s, there was an increased focus on conditions in State and local jails and prisons and the problem of prisoners dying in custody. The interest in oversight of this issue was generated primarily because of the rising tide of expensive wrongful death cases brought in relation to these deaths. Press reports in the 1990s concerning prison abuses and deaths of those incarcerated being attributed to suicide led Congress to develop legislation in response to this problem.

The Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2000 was enacted to require States to report quarterly to the Attorney General brief information regarding the death of any person in the process of arrest or who is otherwise in custody, including jails, prisons, and juvenile facilities.

That law expired in 2006, which led to the effort to reauthorize substantially the same requirements on States and to extend them to Federal agencies as well, which is what H.R. 2189 would do.

This extension, as the gentleman from Texas has mentioned, modifies the sanctions applied for those who do not comply with providing the information. It is expected that the information will be given and negotiations, rather than mandatory sanctions, should result in the information being available.

With detailed statistical data, policy-makers at the local, State, and Federal levels can make informed judgments about the appropriate treatment of prisoners and develop ways to lower the prisoner death rate. In fact, since the focus on deaths in custody emerged in the 1980s and the enactment of the law in 2000, there have been significant declines in deaths of those in custody.

This bill is an important reaffirmation of the importance of requiring

that States submit this information and expands this commitment to Federal law enforcement agencies as well.

This initiative has a history of strong bipartisan support; and I thank my colleagues from the other side of the aisle, particularly the gentleman from Texas, the chair of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. SMITH, for bringing the bill to the floor today.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2189, "the Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2011," would require Federal law enforcement agencies and States that receive certain Federal funds to report to the Department of Justice (DOJ) any deaths of persons arrested or detained by law enforcement personnel under their jurisdiction. H.R. 2189 directs DOJ to prepare a report, within two years of enactment, on the information provided by Federal agencies and States and on ways to reduce the number of such deaths.

As a Senior Member on the Judiciary Committee, I am always concerned about the care of all persons detained by Federal, State, and local authorities. Whenever a death occurs in local jails, State prisons, or during the process of arrests by local and State law enforcement, we must ensure that there are systems in place which can identify the reasons behind each death—in the hope that when possible we can prevent these deaths. The collection of this type of information is a vital first step in this process. The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) collects and disseminates this type of data. Originally the program was initiated by The Death in Custody Reporting Act of 2000, upon the expiration of the Act; the BJS continued to collect this information. The BJS needs our support as they represent a unique national resource for understanding mortality in the criminal justice system.

We all know the important role that law enforcement officers play in protecting our streets and our neighborhoods. This data reflects the challenges that they must face in the line of duty and how to best address those challenges. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, forty-seven States and the District of Columbia reported 2,002 arrest-related deaths during the three years from 2003 through 2005. Homicides by State and local law enforcement officers were the leading cause of such deaths at 55 percent of deaths, followed by alcohol and drug intoxication incidents, which accounted for 13 percent of deaths, and suicides that represented 12 percent of deaths. In 80 percent of homicides by law enforcement officers, the person being arrested reportedly used a weapon to threaten or assault the arresting officer. Virtually all homicides by officers which accounts for 96 percent of deaths were caused by firearm use. According to the FBI during the same period 380 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty of which 159 were homicides. Having these facts readily available will allow authorities to find ways to address the issues faced by those being detained, in detention, and those responsible for safeguarding our neighborhoods and upholding our laws.

H.R. 2189 requires States to report to the Attorney General on quarterly basis information regarding the death of any person who is detained, arrested, en route to incarceration, or incarcerated in state or local facilities or a boot camp prison. To encourage compliance with this requirement States that fail to comply must pay a penalty. H.R. 2189 also requires the head of each Federal law enforcement agency to provide a report directly to the Attorney General. The Attorney General will then study the information and report on means by which it can be used to reduce the number of such deaths.

Summarily H.R. 2189 reauthorizes the Death in Custody Reporting Act. This legislation requires the submission of death statistics at the Federal, State and local levels. The legislation also provides for reductions of up to ten percent of Federal Byrne JAG grant funds at the discretion of the Attorney General, in the event of a State's non-compliance with the reporting requirements. H.R. 2189 also requires an accurate and complete study and report of information on deaths that occurred in custody. Further, H.R. 2189 does not authorize or require any additional spending.

For these reasons I support this legislation and firmly believe it can be used to advance our understanding of mortality in the criminal justice system, which will one day save a life. We must continue to protect persons who are in the custody of Federal, State, and local authorities. I urge my colleagues to lend their support to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2189.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 3:30 p.m.

□ 1533

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 3 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2646) to authorize certain Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility projects and leases, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and to modify certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2646

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act of 2011".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Authorization of fiscal year 2012 major medical facility projects.

Sec. 3. Modification of authorization for certain major medical facility construction projects previously authorized.

Sec. 4. Authorization of fiscal year 2012 major medical facility leases.

Sec. 5. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 6. Modification of requirements relating to congressional approval of certain medical facility acquisitions.

Sec. 7. Limitation on authority of Secretary of Veterans Affairs to use bid savings on major construction projects to expand purpose of major medical facility projects.

Sec. 8. Name of Department of Veterans Affairs telehealth clinic, Craig, Colorado.

Sec. 9. George H. O'Brien, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Sec. 10. Extension of certain expiring authorities.

Sec. 11. Authorization of appropriations for comprehensive service programs for homeless veterans.

Sec. 12. Reauthorization of appropriations for financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing.

Sec. 13. Extension of grant program for homeless veterans with special needs.

Sec. 14. Extension of specially adapted housing assistance for individuals residing temporarily in housing owned by a family member.

Sec. 15. Extension of funding fees.

Sec. 16. Notice and verification of the use of income information from other agencies.

Sec. 17. Termination or reduction of certain benefits and services based on income information obtained from other agencies.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2012 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects in fiscal year 2012, with each project to be carried out in the amount specified for each project:

(1) Construction of seismic corrections for Building 100 at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Seattle, Wash-

ington, in an amount not to exceed \$51,800,000.

(2) Construction of seismic corrections and renovation of various buildings to include Building 209 for housing facilities for homeless veterans at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in West Los Angeles, California, in an amount not to exceed \$35,500,000.

SEC. 3. MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED.

(a) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2007 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER IN FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS.—Section 803(3) of the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-461) is amended—

(1) by inserting "and a parking garage" after "clinical addition"; and

(2) by striking "\$56,163,000" and inserting "\$90,600,000".

(b) MODIFICATION OF EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA, PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED IN CONNECTION WITH CAPITAL ASSET REALIGNMENT INITIATIVE.—Section 802(11) of the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-461), as amended by section 702(b)(4) of the Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-387; 122 Stat. 4137), is amended by inserting ", including a Simulation, Learning, Education, and Research Network Center," after "Florida, area".

(c) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2008 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER IN PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the major medical facility project at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Palo Alto, California, for which amounts were appropriated under chapter 3 of title I of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2008 (Public Law 110-252; 122 Stat. 2326) under the heading "CONSTRUCTION, MAJOR PROJECTS" under the heading "DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS" in an amount not to exceed \$716,600,000.

(d) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2009 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO.—Section 701(3) of the Veterans' Mental Health and Other Care Improvements Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-387; 122 Stat. 4137) is amended by striking "\$225,900,000" and inserting "\$277,000,000".

(e) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2007 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECT AT DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI.—Section 803(5) of the Veterans Benefits, Health Care, and Information Technology Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-461) is amended by striking "\$69,053,000" and inserting "\$346,300,000".

SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2012 MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following fiscal year 2012 major medical facility leases at the locations specified, in an amount not to exceed the amount shown for that location:

(1) Columbus, Georgia, Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, in an amount not to exceed \$5,335,000.

(2) Fort Wayne, Indiana, Outpatient Clinic, in an amount not to exceed \$2,845,000.

(3) Mobile, Alabama, Outpatient Clinic, in an amount not to exceed \$6,565,000.

(4) Rochester, New York, Outpatient Clinic, in an amount not to exceed \$9,232,000.

(5) Salem, Oregon, Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, in an amount not to exceed \$2,549,000.

(6) San Jose, California, Outpatient Clinic, in an amount not to exceed \$9,546,000.

(7) South Bend, Indiana, Outpatient Clinic, in an amount not to exceed \$6,731,000.

(8) Springfield, Missouri, Community-Based Outpatient Clinic, in an amount not to exceed \$6,489,000.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2012 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account \$87,300,000 for the projects authorized in section 2.

(b) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2012 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects, account \$850,070,000 for the projects authorized in section 3.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR MEDICAL FACILITY LEASES.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2012 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Medical Facilities account \$49,292,000 for the leases authorized in section 4.

(d) LIMITATION.—The projects authorized in sections 2, 3, and 4 may only be carried out using—

(1) funds appropriated for fiscal year 2012 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in subsection (a) of this section;

(2) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before fiscal year 2012 that remain available for obligation;

(3) funds available for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after fiscal year 2012 that remain available for obligation;

(4) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for fiscal year 2012 for a category of activity not specific to a project;

(5) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year before 2012 for a category of activity not specific to a project; and

(6) funds appropriated for Construction, Major Projects, for a fiscal year after 2012 for a category of activity not specific to a project.

SEC. 6. MODIFICATION OF REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF CERTAIN MEDICAL FACILITY ACQUISITIONS.

Section 8104 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “detailed description” and inserting “detailed estimate of the total costs”;

(ii) by striking “a description of the consideration” and inserting “a detailed report of the consideration”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following: “Such detailed estimate shall include an identification of each of the following:

“(A) Total construction costs.

“(B) Activation costs.

“(C) Special purpose alterations (lump-sum payment) costs.

“(D) Number of personnel.

“(E) Total costs of ancillary services, equipment, and all other items.”;

(B) by striking paragraphs (2) and (3) and redesignating paragraphs (4) through (8) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively;

(C) in paragraph (2), as so redesignated, by striking “a five-year period and a ten-year period” and inserting “a five-year period, a ten-year period, and a twenty-year period”;

(D) in paragraph (3), as so redesignated, by inserting before the period at the end the following: “, including information on projected changes in workload and utilization over a five-year period, a ten-year period, and a twenty-year period”;

(E) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “Current and projected” and inserting “Projected”;

(ii) by inserting before the period at the end the following: “(including and identifying both recurring and non-recurring costs (including activation costs and total costs of ancillary services, equipment and all other items)) over a five-year period, a ten-year period, and a twenty-year period”;

(F) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated—

(i) by striking “a description of each alternative to construction of the facility that was considered.” and inserting “each of the following”;

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(A) A detailed estimate of the total costs (including total construction costs, activation costs, special purpose alterations (lump-sum payment) costs, number of personnel and total costs of ancillary services, equipment and all other items) for each alternative to construction of the facility that was considered.

“(B) A comparison of total costs to total benefits for each such alternative.

“(C) An explanation of why the preferred alternative is the most effective means to achieve the stated project goals and the most cost-effective alternative.”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “major medical facility project” each place it appears and inserting “major construction project”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “major medical facility projects” and inserting “major construction projects”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “major medical facility” and inserting “major construction project”.

SEC. 7. LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO USE BID SAVINGS ON MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS TO EXPAND PURPOSE OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS.

Section 8104(d)(2) of title 38, United States Code, as amended by section 6, is further amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) The Secretary may not obligate an amount under subparagraph (A) to expand the purpose of a major construction project except pursuant to a provision of law enacted after the date on which the Secretary submits to the committees described in subparagraph (B) notice of the following:

“(i) The major construction project that is the source of the bid savings.

“(ii) The major construction project for which the Secretary intends to expand the purpose.

“(iii) A description of such expansion of purpose.

“(iv) The amounts the Secretary intends to obligate to expand the purpose.”.

SEC. 8. NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TELEHEALTH CLINIC, CRAIG, COLORADO.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs telehealth clinic in Craig, Colorado, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “Major William Edward Adams Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the clinic referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the “Major William

Edward Adams Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”.

SEC. 9. GEORGE H. O'BRIEN, JR., DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Affairs medical center located in Big Spring, Texas, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the “George H. O'Brien, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States to the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be considered to be a reference to the “George H. O'Brien, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

SEC. 10. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN EXPIRING AUTHORITIES.

(a) RECOVERY AUDITS FOR CERTAIN CONTRACTS.—Section 1703(d)(4) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2013” and inserting “September 30, 2020”.

(b) HOMELESS VETERANS REINTEGRATION PROGRAMS.—Section 2021(e)(1)(F) of such title is amended by striking “2011” and inserting “2012”.

(c) TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2031(b) of such title is amended by striking “December 31, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2012”.

(d) ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR SERIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL AND HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2033(d) of such title is amended by striking “December 31, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2012”.

(e) HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2041(c) of such title is amended by striking “December 31, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2012”.

(f) ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 2066(d) of such title is amended by striking “December 30, 2011” and inserting “December 31, 2012”.

(g) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER REAL PROPERTY.—Section 8118(a)(5) of such title is amended by striking “the date that is seven years after the date of the enactment of this section” and inserting “December 31, 2018”.

SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR COMPREHENSIVE SERVICE PROGRAMS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.

Section 2013 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking “subchapter” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: “subchapter amounts as follows”;

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(1) \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2007 through 2009.

“(2) \$175,100,000 for fiscal year 2010.

“(3) \$217,700,000 for fiscal year 2011.

“(4) \$250,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.

“(5) \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2013 and each subsequent fiscal year.”.

SEC. 12. REAUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR VERY LOW-INCOME VETERAN FAMILIES IN PERMANENT HOUSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e) of section 2044 is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2012.”;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “2011” and inserting “2012”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (1) of such subsection is further amended by striking “carry out subsection (a), (b), and (c)” and inserting “carry out subsections (a), (b), and (c)”.

SEC. 13. EXTENSION OF GRANT PROGRAM FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

Section 2061(c)(1) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “2011” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 14. EXTENSION OF SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS RESIDING TEMPORARILY IN HOUSING OWNED BY A FAMILY MEMBER.

Section 2102A(e) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “2011” and inserting “2012”.

SEC. 15. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FEES.

Section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “October 1, 2011” each place it occurs and inserting “November 18, 2011”.

SEC. 16. NOTICE AND VERIFICATION OF THE USE OF INCOME INFORMATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES.

Section 5317(g) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2011” and inserting “November 18, 2011”.

SEC. 17. TERMINATION OR REDUCTION OF CERTAIN BENEFITS AND SERVICES BASED ON INCOME INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM OTHER AGENCIES.

(a) TITLE 38.—Section 5317A(d) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “September 30, 2011” and inserting “November 18, 2011”.

(b) SOCIAL SECURITY ACT.—Section 453(j)(11)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 653(j)(11)(G)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2011” and inserting “November 18, 2011”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2646, as amended, the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act, would encompass the Department of Veterans Affairs' request for major medical facility projects and leases for fiscal year 2012 and extend certain expiring authorities.

The bill before us today tracks with the resources that were provided in the appropriations bill that passed the House with bipartisan support.

The VA provides high-quality medical care and services to our honored veterans through an extensive and diverse portfolio of medical facilities. This national infrastructure generates a great deal of costly construction and maintenance needs which the Department must address.

Section 2 of the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$87 million for seismic corrections and renovations at facilities in Los Angeles, California, and Seattle, Washington.

Section 3 of the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$850 million to construct and modify medical facilities in Palo Alto, California; St. Louis, Missouri; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Fayetteville, Arkansas; and Orlando, Florida.

Section 4 would authorize the appropriation of \$50 million for leasing eight out-patient medical facilities in Columbus, Georgia; Salem, Oregon;

Springfield, Missouri; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Mobile, Alabama; Rochester, New York; San Jose, California; and South Bend, Indiana.

Section 6 of the bill would clarify what information the VA must provide to Congress when seeking authorization for a major medical project or facility project or lease.

Under current law, the VA is required to submit to Congress a prospectus for all major medical facility projects and lease requests. The information should include details relating to construction, equipment, and other costs for the proposed project, as well as any and all alternatives considered and data on projected utilization and operating costs. However, the VA has not provided this information in sufficient detail to allow Congress to effectively evaluate proposed projects and alternatives. Without accurate and complete information, Congress cannot carry out its statutory mission of ensuring an equitable distribution of medical facilities to provide access to care for our veterans across the United States or be assured we are good stewards of taxpayer dollars.

To similarly improve oversight, section 7 of the bill would require the VA to obtain congressional authorization when using bid savings to expand the purpose of a major medical facility project.

Section 8 of the bill would name the VA telehealth clinic in Craig, Colorado, the “Major William Edward Adams VA Clinic.” This provision was adopted from H.R. 1658, introduced by my friend and colleague SCOTT TIPTON from Colorado, and I thank him for bringing this proposal forward. Major William Edward Adams, a Medal of Honor recipient, was a true American hero, and this designation would appropriately memorialize his brave service.

Section 9 of the bill would name the VA medical center in Big Spring, Texas, the “George H. O'Brien, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.” I would also like to thank my friend and colleague from Texas, RANDY NEUGEBAUER, for his efforts to introduce H.R. 558, which became this provision. George H. O'Brien, Jr., is also a Medal of Honor recipient, and it is important that we recognize his honorable service.

Additionally, the bill would extend, for various periods, expiring authorities for several programs, including those that provide services to homeless veterans.

It is deeply concerning that veterans continue to be overrepresented in the homeless population, and helping homeless veterans and those at risk gain access to the support they need to reintegrate into stable community environments and lead productive lives is one of the highest priorities of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

The extension of these programs would provide comprehensive supportive services to help homeless and at-risk veterans find permanent hous-

ing, overcome substance use or other issues, gain meaningful employment, and put them on the path to being productive, successful members of our society.

This legislation represents a bipartisan effort, and I would like to express my thanks to Chairman JEFF MILLER and Ranking Member BOB FILNER, as well as Subcommittee on Health Chairwoman ANN MARIE BUEKLE and Ranking Member MIKE MICHAUD, for their efforts to quickly move this important legislation through committee and to the House floor.

□ 1540

Further, the manager's amendment reflects an agreement reached with the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Senator PATTY MURRAY and Senator RICHARD BURR. I extend my appreciation to them for their work on this bill. It is my expectation that, following consideration in the House, the Senate will act to take up H.R. 2646, as amended, and the legislation will be presented to the President for signature prior to the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2646, as amended, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the gentleman for his hard work on this bill as well as the chairman and the ranking member. I would also like to thank the gentleman for his service to this Nation in uniform and now on the VA Committee—a tireless advocate for our veterans. I think this piece of legislation authorizing the construction and some important things that you've just heard the gentleman talk about is a model for how we can do business here in a bipartisan manner—agreeing on things, discussing them, moving out of subcommittees, through the full committee, and now here to the House floor. So thank you for that.

Mr. Speaker, our most solemn obligation is to take care of the men and women who have served our Nation and to ensure that they have access to the benefits and the quality health care that they've so rightly earned. We have an obligation to make sure the places that they receive care are world class and safe.

H.R. 2646, as amended, would authorize \$937,370,000 for seven major medical facilities. These projects include critical improvements to VA medical centers to protect them in the event of natural disasters and to protect our recovering veterans by addressing basic safety needs, such as adding fire extinguishers and abating existing asbestos. The projects also provide for state-of-the-art facilities and training centers to improve the care veterans receive and to make sure that veterans feel comfortable and welcome at all our facilities. Additionally, the bill would authorize funds for eight new major

medical facility leases that will assist the VA in bringing health care closer to veterans and improve the quality of current health care services, especially in rural America.

It contains several extensions of authority for homeless programs and supportive services for very low-income veteran families. We owe it to our veterans to ensure they have access to secure, safe, clean housing that offers a supportive environment.

Finally, this bill extends programs that are critical for our veterans who suffer from mental health issues. Nearly 30 percent of the patients the VA sees during any given year have a mental health diagnosis. We've taken strides to address this ever-growing issue, but we still have a long way to go. With the growing number of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and with an increasing number of veterans suffering from mental health issues, we must work together to tackle this challenge, and this legislation helps by extending those programs.

I would certainly encourage my colleagues to do what's right by our veterans and to support this good piece of legislation, H.R. 2646, as amended.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague from the great State of Texas, Representative RANDY NEUGEBAUER.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Earlier this year, I introduced H.R. 558. This legislation would rename the Veterans Affairs Medical Center located in Big Spring, Texas, after Medal of Honor recipient George H. O'Brien, Jr. I would like to thank Chairman MILLER and Congressman FLORES for working to include this legislation as a part of the bill before us today.

Born in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1926, Mr. O'Brien enlisted in the Marine Corps while attending Texas Tech University. Shortly after graduation, he was deployed to Korea.

On October 27, 1952, the Americans mounted a counterattack during the Battle of the Hook, a position of key strategic significance. When the battle began, Second Lieutenant O'Brien leapt from his trench and bravely led his platoon into deadly small arms, artillery, and mortar fire against a numerically superior force.

Mr. O'Brien's official citation tells his story best: "Although shot through the arm and thrown to the ground by hostile automatic-weapons fire as he neared the well-entrenched enemy position, he regained his feet, waved his men onward, and continued to spearhead the assault, pausing only long enough to go to the aid of a wounded marine. Encountering the enemy at close range, Second Lieutenant O'Brien proceeded to hurl handgrenades into the bunkers and, utilizing his carbine to best advantage in savage hand-to-hand combat, succeeded in killing at least three of the enemy."

Impressively, despite being wounded, Second Lieutenant O'Brien refused to

be evacuated for medical treatment for nearly four hours, and continued to lead his men in battle.

One year to the day after his actions, Mr. O'Brien was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Eisenhower for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a rifle platoon commander in action against enemy aggressor forces."

Upon his discharge from the United States Marines, O'Brien settled in Big Spring, Texas, to raise a family and begin a career in petroleum geology. He often participated in volunteer programs at the Big Spring VA. In a 2003 interview with American Veteran magazine, old Mr. O'Brien stated, "This Medal of Honor is not mine. I hold it in trust for so many young people who didn't become grandfathers." George Herman O'Brien, Jr., passed away on March 11, 2005. He was 78 years old.

I urge my colleagues to support the underlying bill, and I am proud to honor this great American veteran.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I urge the support of this important piece of legislation. Again, I thank the gentleman from Ohio and the staff on both sides for putting together an important piece of legislation for America's veterans.

As I have no further requests for time, I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the manager's amendment to H.R. 2646, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Once again, I encourage all Members to support H.R. 2646, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2646, the Veterans Health Care Facilities Capital Improvement Act of 2011. This bill authorizes appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs to begin major construction projects and enter into leases for VA facilities in 15 cities. These construction projects and leases will help many veterans around the country receive the best care they possibly can.

One of those leases has special significance for Hoosier veterans. Today, I'm very pleased that Fort Wayne, Indiana, will benefit from a lease that will support an important annex to the VA hospital that serves vets in northeast Indiana.

A 27,000 square-foot annex will provide a mental health clinic, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinic, and substance abuse clinic. This bill is the final step in moving the lease for this annex into fruition and extending health services for veterans in northeast Indiana. This annex will only add to the array of services already provided by the Fort Wayne VA Hospital. It's not the last chapter in our ongoing effort to ensure quality care for our vets, but it's an important one.

Nearly 30 percent of our men and women returning from Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom who use the VA Health System have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Seven percent of newly returning veterans enrolled in the VA Health System are addicted to alcohol and/or other substances. It's only right to take care of those who have risked their lives for our Nation.

When I came to Washington, I knew it was critical to obtain a seat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee for this very reason. I have the honor of working for the Fort Wayne hospital and veterans health care in northeast Indiana. This bill is not only important to Hoosier veterans, but also for our veterans around the country. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 2646.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2646, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1554

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS) at 3 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.

COMBATING AUTISM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2005) to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act of 2006.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2005

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.

Part R of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 399AA(e), by striking "2011" and inserting "2014";

(2) in section 399BB(g), by striking "2011" and inserting "2014";

(3) in section 399CC(f), by striking “2011” and inserting “2014”; and

(4) in section 399DD—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of the Combating Autism Act of 2006” and inserting “Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011”; and

(B) in subsection (b), in paragraphs (4) and (5), by striking “the 4-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “the 6-year period beginning on the date of enactment of the Combating Autism Act of 2006”.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 399EE of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i-4) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 399EE. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.—To carry out section 399AA, there is authorized to be appropriated \$22,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2014.

“(b) AUTISM EDUCATION, EARLY DETECTION, AND INTERVENTION.—To carry out section 399BB, there is authorized to be appropriated \$48,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2014.

“(c) INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COMMITTEE; CERTAIN OTHER PROGRAMS.—To carry out sections 399CC, 404H, and 409C, there is authorized to be appropriated \$161,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2014.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

Mr. PITTS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2005, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011, would enable the Department of Health and Human Services to continue its important work to understand, treat, and cure autism spectrum disorders.

In 2000, Congress passed the Children's Health Act that included funding for research and surveillance on autism. Eventually in 2006, Congress passed the Combating Autism Act that is now being reauthorized.

The Combating Autism Act authorizes HHS to research on autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities at NIH, convene an Interagency Autism Coordinating Council, conduct surveillance to identify the extent of the disorder, and promote early screening and train medical personnel to identify children at risk.

Since the program was first passed in 2006, research has led to better diagnosis, more comprehensive surveillance and programs that offer support and respite for families. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOYLE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to see that the House of Representatives is considering legislation to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act, and it's not a moment too soon with the Combating

Autism Act set to expire at the end of this month.

I want to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of this act, and I also want to thank my counterpart, my colleague and my good friend, CHRIS SMITH, on the other side of the aisle, for his leadership on this issue.

Five years ago, the House of Representatives passed bipartisan legislation by a voice vote that provided the support and direction for the country's first autism-specific research. That bill, the Combating Autism Act, included life-changing provisions relating to the diagnosis and treatment of persons with autism spectrum disorders, and expanded biomedical research on autism, including an essential focus on possible environmental causes.

With this funding, the Centers for Disease Control have been able to put together detailed surveillance of autism so that we have better data to use. Autism screening at well-baby checkups have become mainstream, and parents are better educated about the warning signs, along with the treatment options. Additionally, standards of care for those with an autism spectrum disorder have been developed for both physical and behavioral health where there had been none.

Early diagnoses and intervention for children with autism is utterly life changing. It can mean the difference between independence in the community and living in a communal home. It can mean the difference between speaking or being mute. And for many parents, it means peace of mind and a support network that would have been impossible without this initial investment in research on autism spectrum disorders.

I introduced this legislation with my good friend, CHRIS SMITH, as part of a three-bill package. Those pieces of legislation would ensure that there are also services available to adults with autism, which I think is critical. It's my hope that in the future this body will have a conversation about the needs of adults living with autism, and that we will consider how best to provide for them so that everyone has a long, fulfilling and productive life.

But, for now, it is of grave importance that the House passes this reauthorization with the same overwhelming support as 5 years ago and that we can get this bill to the President's desk by the end of this month.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

Mr. BACHUS. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania and, in fact, both gentlemen from Pennsylvania.

Mr. DOYLE, I commend you, and I commend my colleague, CHRIS SMITH, for your excellent work over the years in combating autism and for bringing this bill to reauthorize the Combating Autism Act.

As Mr. DOYLE said, there is an increasing prevalence of autism, and it is a diagnosis and a condition that these children and their families deal with for their entire life. It's a challenge for those families, a tremendous challenge, one that can't be overstated; but it's also a challenge for society as well because the long-term cost involved in providing care for individuals with developmental disorders can be great, although it can be lessened. There is hope; there is treatment.

The blessing of recent years, in fact, has been that new research and early intervention programs are making an enormous difference in bettering the lives of young boys and girls with autism spectrum disorders.

□ 1600

With early intervention, many can lead much better if not almost normal lives, which is a blessing for all of us, and it's a joy to see. It's a joy to see these children respond to early intervention and begin to develop emotionally.

As a member of the Congressional Autism Caucus, I personally have seen exciting innovations at facilities using a comprehensive approach to care. Mitchell's Place in Birmingham is helping young children and adolescents in Alabama improve both their academic performance and social behavior by combining the latest in research and services with a structured and caring environment.

That center was started by a couple whose young boy had autism, and it is a blessing for our community. You only need to visit that center and see the beautiful children and the new hope that they have, not only they but their proud parents and grandparents as they realize that every day, every week, every month they are improving and becoming more a part of society and more a functioning individual as far as their interaction with others. It is literally a godsend to these people. It's an oasis. It's a spring in the desert.

A coordinated and comprehensive approach to the treatment of autism spectrum disorders has been key to this encouraging process. My home State of Alabama, I am proud to say, has recognized the importance of close cooperation when it formed the Alabama Interagency Autism Coordinating Council in 2008. To a certain extent it looked to Pennsylvania and the work that had been done there. Children and parents across my State are being helped by the council's planning and awareness efforts.

Finally, the Combating Autism Act has been crucial to promoting a coordinated approach on the national level. The renewal of this legislation will build on the successes that have already been achieved in a responsible and effective way. I close by saying that it's my hope that this legislation will receive overwhelming bipartisan support because it is doing good work while making life-changing investments in the health and well-being of

very special children and very precious children.

I thank you, Mr. DOYLE.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Alabama, a valuable member of the Autism Caucus, for his words of support.

My good friend, CHRIS SMITH, has joined us on the floor. CHRIS, you weren't here, I thanked you for your leadership, and it's good to see you.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Let me first thank Congressman DOYLE for yielding me time and certainly thank him for his leadership on this very important issue. Not only has he led on this issue, but he has led on the Energy and Commerce Committee for many years, and I just want to thank him publicly for his friendship and his leadership. Also let me thank Congressman CHRIS SMITH for his bipartisan spirit and his willingness to work on this very important issue. These two men working together have really and truly made a difference. I join the chairman of the subcommittee, Mr. PITTS, and all of the others, in thanking them for a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, later today the House is going to take up this legislation, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011. Make no mistake about it, I intend to vote for this very important bill.

However, I have come to the floor today to make a very simple but important point that I had intended to raise had this bill been heard in regular order and had it been considered by our committee.

Although autism occurs in every racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic group, studies show clearly that, on average, a diagnosis of autism or autism spectrum disorder is actually delayed by almost 2 years for African American and Hispanic children as compared to their Caucasian counterparts. Many of my colleagues may not know this, but it is a clear fact, minority children are much more likely to be misdiagnosed with conduct-related or adjustment disorders.

Since research shows that early detection yields better, more effective results, it is imperative, Mr. Speaker, that we expand efforts to address disparities in awareness, diagnosis, treatment, and services. In carrying out the programs of the Reauthorization Act, I simply ask the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make every conceivable effort to address the well-documented needs of minority children who are diagnosed with this disease that we refer to as autism.

I want to thank you for listening and thank you for your advocacy, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of H.R. 2005.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH)

and thank him for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I thank my good friend, the chair, Mr. PITTS, for yielding and for his leadership on all issues relating to health, and in particular on autism. I do want to thank Speaker BOEHNER and Majority Leader CANTOR for bringing the bill to the floor. Without them, it wouldn't be on the floor today. And I also thank Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman FRED UPTON. And of course, again, Chairman PITTS.

And I want to thank my good friend Mr. DOYLE. We have worked on this for well over a decade. We formed the Autism Caucus. It has over 100 members. It is totally bipartisan. It has been a pleasure to work with him, and I thank him for his leadership as well.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise in support of this bill, H.R. 2005, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011. This legislation is critically important to continue without interruption the progress that has been achieved to date in understanding autism and in developing interventions that will have the greatest impact in helping individuals affected by autism or other developmental disabilities.

When I first got elected to Congress in 1980, the autism community accepted that autism prevalence rates in the United States were something on the order of 3 in 10,000. Today it is estimated to be 1 in 110, and in some places like New Jersey, the data suggests 1 in 94, for a total of about 1.5 million individuals in the U.S. who are suffering from autism.

On May 31 of this year, I chaired a hearing as chairman of the Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights Subcommittee, a hearing entitled, "Global Autism: A Developmental Disability Pandemic." My committee received testimony that some 67 million people worldwide suffer from ASD in the world. There are tens of millions in Africa, according to the World Health Organization. It is an epidemic, and this legislation, the Combating Autism Act, is a very responsible and, I would suggest, modest effort to combat this pandemic that's occurring.

In 1998, Mr. Speaker, the wonderful parents of two autistic children in my district, Bobby and Billy Gallagher, asked me to look into what appeared at the time to be an autism prevalence spike in Brick Township, New Jersey. I invited CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, ATSDR, and others to investigate. Not only did their probe show what appeared to be elevated numbers of children with the disorder in Brick Township, but the data strongly suggested a much wider problem than anticipated in other parts of my State because they weren't doing comparisons, and the data calls produced information which said, we have a problem not just in Brick, but elsewhere.

In direct response to that, in 1999 I introduced the Autism Statistics, Sur-

veillance, Research, and Epidemiology, or ASSURE, Act to establish centers of excellence and create a Federal advisory committee which became Title I of the Children's Health Act of 2000. I always want to thank Chairman BILIRAKIS for including it in his bill. It made all the difference in the world. Five years later, the initiative was reauthorized and expanded in the Combating Autism Act, the law we respectfully ask Members to renew today.

□ 1610

According to the NIH, autism spectrum disorder—and just for the record, again, autism is defined as impaired verbal or nonverbal communication skills and social interactions, and restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behavior ranging in impact from mild to significantly disabling—it ought to be noted that the Combating Autism Act of 2011 will continue the success of the CAA of 2006 by authorizing funding for programs at NIH, CDC, and HRSA for 3 additional years.

I would point out, and this is important, autism spectrum disorder is very expensive and, again, efforts made to mitigate its prevalence and to treat with early intervention those who show or manifest signs of it are not only humane, and that should be our driving force, but they are also very cost effective. It's estimated that ASD costs per year are between \$35 billion and \$90 billion dollars, with a "b." So the costs are very, very large.

H.R. 2005, as my colleagues I know have said, would also reauthorize the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee, or the IACC, a panel of government and public members tasked with coordinating all ASD-related activities within HHS, as well as developing and annually updating a strategic plan for ASD research in order to enhance the quality, efficacy, and applicability of research grants. In other words, let's spend the money wisely.

To avoid waste and duplication, the IACC has crafted three strategic research plans: one in 2009, one in 2010, and another for this year. For example, in 2009, the strategic plan included 40 research objectives, including development of new diagnostic tools, identification of genetic and environmental risk factors, and assessments of services for people with ASD in all ages in a community setting.

It should be noted that the aging-out issue is becoming increasingly a concern. What does a parent whose son or daughter or sons or daughters turn 21 and the full array of those services are no longer available? What do they do?

Recently I met with Chuck Colson's daughter, who wrote a book called "Dancing with Max," a wonderful story of love between a mother and son. Her son now is aging out, and she is frightened by the prospect of what happens if she gets elderly and those services are not there. We need to be focusing on that.

The 2010 strategic plan had 32 new objectives, including health disparities in

early diagnosis and treatment of co-occurring conditions, such as epilepsy, sleep, and gastrointestinal disorders. The 2011 strategic plan added another 16 objectives, including studies on the use and accessibility of alternative and augmentative communication tools for nonverbal individuals.

I just want to say to my colleagues, and I have much more that I will put into the RECORD of how important it is, but all these different agencies of government are surging to try to combat autism. We need to reauthorize this legislation. The CDC has its “learn the signs, act early campaign.” My friend, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, earlier mentioned the fact that minority communities have been left out or diagnoses are often not done in a timely way. That is absolutely true. And more needs to be done. The programs are in place. The policies are in place. We need to continue what is truly a very, very effective use of taxpayer dollars to help these autistic children.

There is also the problem, as the information has shown, that early detection is key to mitigating the impact of autism. But still, even with 10 years’ experience educating doctors, parents, and educators, there is still about a 2-year lag when there’s a detection of something is wrong with my son or daughter before that diagnosis is actually made. The earlier we start the intervention strategies, the greater chance that child will have a quality of life and a life where they can then achieve their goals and their dreams, but if we don’t catch it early and begin taking action, very often, the life of that child is more seriously impaired.

This legislation, like I said, is a modest step, but a very crucial step. I want to thank all the organizations for the work that they have done—they have been tremendous—the NGOs that are in the community, Autism Speaks, the Autism Society, the AUCC, all of the groups, for the work that they have done in educating Members.

And again, thank you Chairman PITTS for bringing this bill to the floor, and to ERIC CANTOR for scheduling it and ensuring that we can act on this in a timely way, and again my good friend on the other side of the aisle, Mr. DOYLE, for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2005, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011. This legislation is critically important to continue without interruption the progress achieved to date in understanding autism and in developing interventions that will have the greatest impact in helping individuals affected by autism or another developmental disability.

When I first got elected to Congress in 1980, the community accepted that autism prevalence rates in the United States were 3 in 10,000. Today, it is estimated to be 1 in 110, and in some places like New Jersey, 1 in 94—for a total of 1.5 million individuals in the United States. On May 31 of this year, I chaired a hearing entitled, “Global Autism: ‘A Developmental Disability Pandemic,’” and my committee received testimony that some 67 million people suffer from ASD worldwide.

In 1998, the wonderful parents of two autistic children in my district, Bobbie and Billy Gallagher, asked me to look into what appeared to be an autism prevalence spike in Brick Township, New Jersey. I asked CDC and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and others to investigate, and not only did their probe show what appeared to be elevated numbers of children with the disorder in Brick, but the data strongly suggested a much wider problem than anticipated in other parts of the State.

In 1999, I introduced the Autism Statistics, Surveillance, Research and Epidemiology (AS-SURE) Act to establish centers of excellence and create a Federal advisory committee, which became Title I of the Children’s Health Act of 2000.

Five years later, the initiative was reauthorized and expanded in the Combating Autism Act—the law we respectfully ask members to renew today.

According to the National Institutes of Health, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is “characterized by impaired verbal and non-verbal communication skills and social interactions and restricted, repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behavior, ranging in impact from mild to significantly disabling.”

The total cost to society of ASD has been estimated from 35 to 90 billion dollars annually. The Harvard School of Public Health calculated that it can cost \$3.2 million to take care of one autistic person over his or her lifetime. Looking at medical expenses alone, a CD study of employer-based health insurance showed that individuals with an ASD had average medical expenditures that exceeded those without an ASD by \$4,100 to \$6,200 per year.

A decade of research, surveillance, treatment and education has had a significant positive impact on the ASD affected person, as well as his or her family—who, as we all know, face huge financial and emotional challenges of their own.

The Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011 will continue the success of the CAA of 2006 by authorizing funding for programs at NIH, CDC, and HRSA for three additional years. Total funding for the legislation will be at the fiscal year 2011 appropriated level of \$231 million for each of fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014. The Reauthorization Act will authorize appropriations of \$22 million for surveillance; \$48 million for education, early detection, and intervention; and \$161 million for NIH research and operation of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee.

This is not considered “new” money, but rather a straight-line reauthorization of total funds for the legislation, in compliance with the “cut-go” requirements of the 112th Congress. The Combating Autism Reauthorization Act also retains sunset and reporting provisions that ensure appropriate review and accountability.

H.R. 2005 reauthorizes the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC)—a panel of government and public members, tasked with coordinating all ASD-related activities within HHS, as well as developing and annually updating a strategic plan for ASD research. In order to enhance the quality, efficacy and applicability of research grants and to avoid waste and duplication, the IACC has crafted 3 strategic research plans in 2009, 2010, and 2011.

For example, in 2009, the strategic plan included 40 research objectives, including the

development of new diagnostic tools, identification of genetic and environmental risk factors, and assessments of services for people with ASD of all ages in a community setting.

The 2010 IACC strategic plan has 32 new objectives, including health disparities in early diagnosis and treatment of co-occurring conditions, such as epilepsy and sleep and gastrointestinal disorders.

And the 2011 strategic plan added another 16 objectives, including studies on the use and accessibility of alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) tools for nonverbal individuals.

The IACC also summarizes advances in ASD research identified as having the greatest impact on the field of autism, which has included the association between family history of autoimmune disease and ASD, genetic risk factors, racial disparities, and novel ways to diagnose ASD using speech patterns. Just for fiscal year 2010, NIH awarded 528 grants from baseline funding to pursue promising research related to autism.

This reauthorization bill also continues support of the critical surveillance and epidemiology programs that were established by the Children’s Health Act and strengthened by the Combating Autism Act.

The Autism and Developmental Disabilities Network (ADDN) has published the most comprehensive and highest quality estimates to date of the prevalence of ASD in multiple areas of the U.S.

The Centers for Autism Developmental Disabilities Research and Epidemiology has implemented the Study to Explore Early Development (SEED), which is the largest study planned to date of the causes of autism, including genetic and environmental risk factors. The study has enrolled 2700 families and initial findings are due next year.

The CAA also focuses on programs in education, early detection and interventions that have already impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals with autism and other developmental disabilities and their families.

CDC’s health communication campaign, “Learn the Signs. Act Early,” educates parents, health care professionals, and early childhood educators about the importance of monitoring a child’s developmental milestones, seeking further evaluation where there is a concern, and seeking early intervention services as soon as possible.

The Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration developed and implemented the Combating Autism Act Initiative, which is conducting research on and providing training to health professionals in the use of valid, reliable screening and diagnostic tools and in the provision of evidence-based interventions for children with ASD or another developmental disability.

As a result of increased awareness of the public, of educators, and of health care professionals, the median age for diagnosis of autism—which currently is about 4.5 years—appears to be on the decline. However, it is important to continue our efforts, as there is still on average a 2 year time gap from developmental concerns to actual diagnosis, research has demonstrated the positive impact of implementing behavioral intervention before age 3, and Applied Behavioral analysis has shown significant improvement for children as young as 18 months.

In summary, under the Children's Health Act and the Combating Autism Act, our scientific infrastructure for addressing autism and other developmental disorders has developed and we have made major advances in our understanding of ASD. For the first time, we have high quality data on prevalence and data to support analysis of causes of autism, and a clearer picture of promising paths and gaps in research. Health professionals have a level of knowledge for greatly improved diagnostics and interventions to provide meaningful medical and behavioral benefits. There is optimism that a sustained focus on genetic and environmental triggers will lead to efficacious treatments and prevention strategies. Importantly, the infrastructure and programs are in place to continue our progress.

I want to thank our Speaker BOEHNER and Majority Leader CANTOR, as well as Energy and Commerce Chairman UPTON, Health Subcommittee Chairman PITTS for the leadership that have shown in moving this legislation forward. I also would like to thank my friend and autism caucus co-chair, Congressman MIKE DOYLE, for his work in developing and supporting this legislation.

Mr. DOYLE. I want to thank my friend, CHRIS SMITH, for his important words. I hope all Members were listening carefully because the clock is running.

Mr. Speaker, we anticipate maybe some people coming to the floor to speak, so at this time I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. HARPER).

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011, and I want to thank my colleagues, particularly Congressman SMITH, Congressman DOYLE, and Chairman PITTS, for their great work on bringing this to the forefront today.

Experts estimate that one in every 110 children is diagnosed with autism. As a whole, developmental disabilities affect an increasing number of young people, and specifically students. In an effort to help provide students with exciting education and enrichment opportunities, I was honored to establish the Congressional Internship Program for Individuals With Intellectual Disabilities in 2010. Last week, 22 congressional offices, Republican and Democratic, welcomed 11 developmentally disabled students to their staffs to serve as interns for this fall.

Collecting data for autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities is vital to ensuring that every young person with a significant disability has the opportunity, the encouragement, and the support to become gainfully employed in an integrated setting, pursue a postsecondary education, and contribute to and engage in meaningful ways in typical community settings once they leave high school. This gives these individuals with autism hope.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. DOYLE. I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I first learned about autism when I was a young staffer in the Pennsylvania State senate. A gentleman by the name of Dan Torisky came into our office one day. His son, Eddie, had autism, and he had asked us to see what we could do at the State level to give him and his family some help. Eddie was a young man at that time. He's an adult now. He's in his mid-forties. A lot of people's idea of autism I think was from the movie "Rain Man." That was about the only thing they knew about autism. It was something that people didn't understand and something that was frequently misdiagnosed.

When CHRIS and I decided to form this caucus over 10 years ago, one of the goals that we had was to bring education and awareness, not only to our colleagues, many of whom were not familiar with the disorder, but also to the public, and also to bring some attention to the researchers at NIH too, that there was something much bigger to this than people realized. It has borne fruit over the years. We've seen research dollars greatly increased at NIH.

I want to also echo what my friend, CHRIS, said about the parents' groups. This is really the strength of the autism community. It's not the Autism Caucus. It's not CHRIS SMITH or MIKE DOYLE. It's really the parents of these children that formed the many different groups you see out there. Their grassroots effort really has grown this movement, brought attention to it, given it strength and brought us to where we are today.

We have a clock ticking. This act expires at the end of September. I know there's some concern over in the Senate with some of our colleagues about reauthorizing these specific bills. I hope that all of us will speak to our colleagues over in the Senate—I certainly intend to speak to mine—and stress the importance of continuing the great progress that's been made over these past 5 years. This is not a time for us to stop what we're doing and to pull support for this very, very important act.

I hope that we will pass this swiftly in the House of Representatives, and I hope all of us will use whatever influence we may have with our colleagues in the other body to see that they also get this reauthorized by the end of the month so that the President can sign it for all of the families out in America who are dealing with this disorder.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I urge Members to support H.R. 2005. I commend, again, CHRIS SMITH and MIKE DOYLE for their leadership on this issue.

With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2005, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act. As a founding Member of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am greatly concerned with the impact that autism has on children and their families.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that Autism Spectrum Disorders impact an average of 1 in 110 American children, and 1 in 70 boys. We can all benefit from learning about this disease; autism occurs in all racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. Continuing research on treating this disease is essential for children's health. Thousands of children with autism disorders have already shown significant improvement and increased independence resulting from early detection and new treatments.

Currently, there are between 1 and 1.5 million Americans living with a form of autism. If current diagnostic rates remain the same or increase, more children will be diagnosed with autism this year than AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined. Autism is the fastest growing serious developmental disability in the country. In my home state of Texas, where I represent the 18th Congressional District, there are 1 out of every 163 public students who are eight years old has a form of autism.

As many parents can attest, autism is an extremely costly disability; the average annual medical expenditures for individuals with autism are between 4 and 6 times greater than those without autism. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) places the average lifetime care cost for an autism patient at 3.2 million dollars. This legislation provides funding for services to assist individuals with autism and their families, and allocates vital dollars toward research to improve care and treatment.

The Combating Autism Act of 2006 was a landmark piece of legislation that raised awareness of autism spectrum disorders, and organized an aggressive federal response to autism. Reauthorizing this bill continues funding at current levels, \$693 million dollars over 3 years for biomedical and treatment research, and services for those living with autism and their families.

In 2006, the Combating Autism Act established the disease as a national health priority, increased awareness, and highlighted the need for swift and urgent action to address autism. Since that time, promising developments and innovations have helped individuals living with autism lead more independent lives. Improvements in detection and treatment have led to increased independence in teenagers and adults with autism.

The Combating Autism Reauthorization Act is a shining example of how government can do more than issue Social Security checks and debate debt reduction. This legislation clearly demonstrates that our government can be a force for good, and a mechanism for change. New science and new technology have presented an unparalleled moment of possibility; this legislation has the power to make real differences in the lives of those affected by autism.

Mr. Speaker, we all have constituents living with autism. We all have constituents whose child, sibling, cousin, or friend is living with a form of autism. This disability affects Americans of all races and backgrounds, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2005, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2005, the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011, a bill important to many families in Hawaii.

H.R. 2005 reauthorizes the landmark Combating Autism Act of 2006, which significantly increased both the depth and breadth of the federal response to the national and public health emergency posed by autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

Since passage of that law, we have made tremendous strides in federally-funded and directed research. It was the detailed surveillance by the federal Centers for Disease Control under the act that identified the increasing prevalence of autism: 1 in every 110 American children—including 1 in 70 boys—is diagnosed with an ASD, making it the nation's fastest-growing, serious developmental disorder.

I've heard from a mother in Kailua on the island of Oahu who credits the 2006 law for providing her family with needed medical attention and assistance for their autistic child. H.R. 2005 builds on our good efforts.

I became a cosponsor of the bill because I believe it supports hope and opportunity for a brighter future for families not only in Hawaii but across our nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in support of the H.R. 2005.

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today, one in every 110 children is diagnosed with autism and 1.5 million individuals in the United States are affected by this disorder. The rate of autism is increasing by at least 10 percent annually, but scientists do not yet know why. That is why research into causes and treatments for autism is so important.

That is why I rise today in support of the Combating Autism Reauthorization Act of 2011, which would reauthorize the surveillance and research program for autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities through 2014. The bill would also authorize programs for education, early detection, and intervention, which will give the families affected by this disorder access to the best available care and help make everyone more aware of the impact autism can have on those diagnosed and their families.

Autism affects the constituents of every single Member of Congress. In my own district I have met with families who are affected by autism and participated in walks to raise awareness of this disorder. I urge my colleagues to support bipartisan passage of this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2005.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1620

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL GME SUPPORT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1852) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1852

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2011".

SEC. 2. PROGRAM OF PAYMENTS TO CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS THAT OPERATE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 340E of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "through 2005 and each of fiscal years 2007 through 2011" and inserting "through 2016";

(2) in subsection (f)(1)(A)(iv), by striking "2011" and inserting "2016"; and

(3) in subsection (f)(2)(D), by striking "2011" and inserting "2016".

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 340E(b)(3)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256e(b)(3)(D)) is amended by striking "Not later than the end of fiscal year 2011" and inserting "Not later than the end of fiscal year 2015".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS).

Mr. PITTS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1852, the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Support Reauthorization Act of 2011, would enable the Department of Health and Human Services to continue to provide funding to freestanding children's hospitals to support the training of pediatricians and other residents. This funding is critical to ensuring the adequacy of the pediatric workforce in the United States.

The program was first enacted by Congress in 1999 with wide bipartisan support and has been reauthorized twice. Since the enactment of the bill, the number of pediatricians trained has increased by 35 percent.

The week we marked up this bill, I met 10-year-old Anna Lipsman. Anna is a bright, outgoing young girl who is fighting leukemia. Diagnosed just a few months ago, Anna spent 2 weeks undergoing treatment at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. She is successfully fighting her disease, but will still need additional treatments over the next 2½ years. Anna is a strong, personal reminder of why I introduced this bill.

With the reauthorization of H.R. 1852, we hope to send a clear message to the

Obama administration and the Department of Health and Human Services that this bill is important to ensuring that children receive adequate health care.

I would like to thank Mr. PALLONE and all the 114 cosponsors that worked on this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DOYLE. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education Support Reauthorization Act, offered by my good friends, Mr. PITTS and Mr. PALLONE. I know Mr. PALLONE is on his way to the floor and will be speaking shortly. This critical legislation will reauthorize the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education program through 2016 to ensure that our children have access to the care they need and deserve, and I urge my colleagues to pass this bill with unanimous support.

The original bipartisan program was enacted over a decade ago to provide children's hospitals across the country with the Federal support to implement and carry out necessary residency training programs. Last year alone, over 50 children's hospitals received funding to carry out these training programs. Today, over 40 percent of pediatricians and pediatric specialists are trained through the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education program. This program is vital to maintaining the pediatric workforce and ensuring children's access to the highest levels of pediatric care provided in this country.

The Children's Hospital GME program is a critical investment in our children's health, and I am proud today that we will vote to reauthorize this hugely successful program.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PITTS. I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE), a member of the subcommittee.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1852, legislation to reauthorize the Children's Hospital Graduate Medical Education program.

Today's legislation will assist pediatric training programs across the country by maintaining and strengthening existing hospital graduate medical education programs for children.

Independent children's hospitals have an indispensable role in the children's health workforce, training 40 percent of all pediatric residents and 43 percent of pediatric specialty fellows, and providing pediatric training for many other residents. Nowhere is this more evident than Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, New Jersey, in the district I have the honor of serving. Under the strong leadership of my friend, Amy Mansue, the staff does an excellent job training and caring for children and making sure that highly

qualified, effective medical personnel exist.

I thank Health Subcommittee Chairman PITTS for his tremendous work in this effort, as well as Ranking Member PALLONE. And I thank them for working in a bipartisan capacity to bring this legislation to the floor. I am honored to serve on Chairman PITTS' subcommittee, and I am pleased that the full Energy and Commerce Committee has agreed with what we have tried to accomplish in the subcommittee.

I urge all of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to support H.R. 1852. It is essential that this program be reauthorized.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, it appears the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is not here yet. His flight was late getting in.

Therefore, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. PITTS. In conclusion, I would like to thank the ranking member of the subcommittee, Mr. PALLONE, for his leadership on this issue. It has been a bipartisan effort on the Health Subcommittee and Energy and Commerce Committee.

I urge all Members to support the Children's Hospital Graduate Education Support Reauthorization Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1852, "The Children's Hospital GME Support Reauthorization Act of 2011," would amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize payments to children's hospitals operating training programs that provide graduate medical education. These payments would be made to hospitals for both direct and indirect costs related to graduate medical education.

Americans across our nation need care, and the Children's Hospital GME (CHGME) program has been utilized by hospitals across our country to train doctors who can provide that care. I represent the 18th District which is home to the Methodist Hospital System, one of the largest medical institutions in the world. In 2010, the Methodist Hospital System graduated sixty-nine doctors from the resident CHGME program. That is 69 additional doctors who will meet our growing health care needs. H.R. 1852 will allow Houston to continue to recruit and train so many talented doctors.

Overall, freestanding children's hospitals have increased their medical resident training programs by 35 percent since 1999. If CHGME is allowed to expire we will lose the gains we have made in this field. There is no reasonable argument for allowing this program to expire as it provides a great benefit at a

marginal cost. For this fiscal year, the program has spent .0085 percent of the federal budget. This small expenditure allows children's hospitals to train more than 5,600 full-time equivalent residents—more than one third of our nation's pediatricians.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, the nation could face a shortage of as many as 150,000 doctors in the next 15 years. The funds generated from this legislation will help train the medical professionals we desperately need. In a time when there are growing health disparities within our nation. It is important to address the needs of underserved urban areas. The more medicinal professionals we train there is an increase likelihood that these underserved communities will have access to proper medical care.

The program supports 56 hospitals nationwide and trains more than 5,000 medical residents each year. It started 12 years ago as an effort to provide children's hospitals with funding for residencies and fellowships. There are other federal programs to assist residency funding exist; however, the CHGME program caters to pediatrics, while others are open to all teaching hospitals.

This funding is vital as it will help to cover the cost of 5,600 pediatric residencies at more than 50 children's hospitals across the United States. Forty percent of the nation's pediatricians and 43 percent of pediatric subspecialists receive training from the program. We must train the very professionals who will one day save the life of a child.

The CHGME pays for the salaries of medical students and compensate hospitals for patient care costs that are often higher in teaching hospitals than non-teaching hospitals. We should provide the funds necessary to train students in a profession that will benefit society.

I support this legislation because it will increase the quality of medical training in the United States. I believe that H.R. 1852 improves upon a system that sets the bar for medical care internationally. Through government funding, the program has succeeded in bolstering research potential at these institutions as well as helping to cure a problem that supersedes political boundaries: children's illness. This bill creates positive effects that cross party lines, and I urge my distinguished colleagues to vote a resounding and unified "yes."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1852.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2944, de novo;

H.R. 2189, de novo;

H.R. 2646, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2944) to provide for the continued performance of the functions of the United States Parole Commission, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 712]

YEAS—415

Ackerman	Blumenauer	Chabot
Adams	Bonner	Chaffetz
Aderholt	Bono Mack	Chandler
Akin	Boren	Chu
Alexander	Boswell	Ciulline
Altmire	Boustany	Clarke (MI)
Amash	Brady (PA)	Clarke (NY)
Amodel	Brady (TX)	Clay
Andrews	Braley (IA)	Cleaver
Austria	Brooks	Clyburn
Bachus	Brown (GA)	Coble
Baldwin	Brown (FL)	Coffman (CO)
Barletta	Buchanan	Cohen
Barrow	Bucshon	Cole
Bartlett	Burgess	Conaway
Barton (TX)	Burton (IN)	Connolly (VA)
Bass (CA)	Butterfield	Conyers
Bass (NH)	Calvert	Cooper
Becerra	Camp	Costa
Benishek	Campbell	Costello
Berg	Canseco	Courtney
Berkley	Cantor	Cravaack
Berman	Capito	Crawford
Biggert	Capps	Crenshaw
Billbray	Capuano	Critz
Billirakis	Cardoza	Crowley
Bishop (GA)	Carney	Cuellar
Bishop (NY)	Carson (IN)	Culberson
Bishop (UT)	Carter	Cummings
Black	Cassidy	Davis (CA)
Blackburn	Castor (FL)	Davis (IL)

Davis (KY)	Jackson (IL)	Pallone	Turner (OH)	Waters	Wolf	Crawford	Inslee	Pastor (AZ)
DeFazio	Jackson Lee	Pascrell	Upton	Watt	Womack	Crenshaw	Israel	Paulsen
DeGette	(TX)	Pastor (AZ)	Van Hollen	Waxman	Woodall	Critz	Issa	Payne
DeLauro	Jenkins	Paulsen	Velázquez	Webster	Woolsey	Crowley	Jackson (IL)	Pelosi
Denham	Johnson (GA)	Payne	Visclosky	Welch	Yarmuth	Cuellar	Jackson Lee	Pence
Dent	Johnson (IL)	Pearce	Walberg	West	Yoder	Culberson	(TX)	Perlmutter
DesJarlais	Johnson (OH)	Pence	Walden	Westmoreland	Young (AK)	Cummings	Jenkins	Peters
Deutch	Johnson, E. B.	Perlmutter	Walsh (IL)	Whitfield	Young (IN)	Davis (CA)	Johnson (GA)	Peterson
Diaz-Balart	Johnson, Sam	Peters	Walz (MN)	Wilson (FL)		Davis (IL)	Johnson (IL)	Petri
Dicks	Jones	Peterson	Wasserman	Wilson (SC)		Davis (KY)	Johnson (OH)	Pingree (ME)
Dingell	Jordan	Petri	Schultz	Wittman		DeFazio	Johnson, E. B.	Pitts
Doggett	Kaptur	Pingree (ME)				DeGette	Johnson, Sam	Platts
Dold	Keating	Pitts				DeLauro	Jones	Polis
Donnelly (IN)	Kelly	Platts	Baca	Lewis (GA)	Rohrabacher	Denham	Jordan	Pompeo
Doyle	Kildee	Poe (TX)	Bachmann	McGovern	Ryan (OH)	Dent	Kaptur	Posey
Dreier	Kind	Polis	Buerkle	Paul	Ryan (WI)	DesJarlais	Keating	Price (GA)
Duffy	King (IA)	Pompeo	Carnahan	Pelosi	Schrader	Deutch	Kelly	Price (NC)
Duncan (SC)	King (NY)	Posey	Giffords	Quayle	Smith (NJ)	Diaz-Balart	Kildee	Quigley
Duncan (TN)	Kingston	Price (GA)	Gutierrez	Reichert	Young (FL)	Dicks	Kind	Rahall
Edwards	Kinzinger (IL)	Price (NC)				Dingell	King (IA)	Rangel
Ellison	Kissell	Quigley				Doggett	King (NY)	Reed
Ellmers	Kline	Rahall				Dold	Kinzinger (IL)	Rehberg
Emerson	Kucinich	Rangel				Donnelly (IN)	Kissell	Renacci
Engel	Labrador	Reed				Doyle	Kline	Reyes
Eshoo	Lamborn	Rehberg				Dreier	Kucinich	Ribble
Farenthold	Lance	Renacci				Duffy	Lamborn	Richardson
Farr	Landry	Reyes				Edwards	Lance	Richmond
Fattah	Langevin	Ribble				Ellison	Langevin	Rigell
Filner	Lankford	Richardson				Ellmers	Lankford	Rivera
Fincher	Larsen (WA)	Richmond				Emerson	Larsen (WA)	Roby
Fitzpatrick	Larson (CT)	Rigell				Engel	Larson (CT)	Roe (TN)
Flake	Latham	Rivera				Eshoo	Latham	Rogers (AL)
Fleischmann	LaTourette	Roby				Farenthold	LaTourette	Rogers (KY)
Fleming	Latta	Roe (TN)				Farr	Latta	Rogers (MI)
Flores	Lee (CA)	Rogers (AL)				Fattah	Lee (CA)	Rokita
Forbes	Levin	Rogers (KY)				Filner	Levin	Rooney
Fortenberry	Lewis (CA)	Rogers (MI)				Fincher	Lewis (CA)	Ros-Lehtinen
Fox	Lipinski	Rokita				Fitzpatrick	Lipinski	Roskam
Frank (MA)	LoBiondo	Rooney				Fleischmann	LoBiondo	Ross (AR)
Franks (AZ)	Loeb	Ros-Lehtinen				Flores	Loeb	Ross (FL)
Frelinghuysen	Loftgren, Zoe	Roskam				Forbes	Loftgren, Zoe	Rothman (NJ)
Fudge	Long	Ross (AR)				Fortenberry	Long	Royal-Allard
Gallegly	Lowey	Ross (FL)				Fox	Lowey	Royce
Garamendi	Lucas	Rothman (NJ)				Frank (MA)	Lucas	Runyan
Gardner	Luetkemeyer	Royal-Allard				Franks (AZ)	Luetkemeyer	Ruppersberger
Garrett	Luján	Royce				Frelinghuysen	Luján	Rush
Gerlach	Lummis	Runyan				Fudge	Lummis	Ryan (OH)
Gibbs	Lungren, Daniel	Ruppersberger				Gallegly	Lungren, Daniel	Sánchez, Linda
Gibson	E.	Rush				Garamendi	E.	T.
Gingrey (GA)	Lynch	Sánchez, Linda				Gardner	Lynch	Sanchez, Loretta
Gohmert	Mack	T.				Garrett	Mack	Sarbanes
Gonzalez	Maloney	Sanchez, Loretta				Gerlach	Maloney	Scalise
Goodlatte	Manzullo	Sarbanes				Gibbs	Manzullo	Schakowsky
Gosar	Marchant	Scalise				Gibson	Marchant	Schiff
Gowdy	Marino	Schakowsky				Gingrey (GA)	Marino	Schilling
Granger	Markey	Schiff				Gonzalez	Markey	Schmidt
Graves (GA)	Matheson	Schilling				Goodlatte	Matheson	Schock
Graves (MO)	Matsui	Schmidt				Gosar	Matsui	Schwartz
Green, Al	McCarthy (CA)	Schock				Gowdy	McCarthy (NY)	Schweikert
Green, Gene	McCarthy (NY)	Schwartz				Granger	McCaul	Scott (SC)
Griffin (AR)	McCaul	Schweikert				Graves (MO)	McClintock	Scott (VA)
Griffith (VA)	McClintock	Scott (SC)				Green, Al	McCollum	Scott, Austin
Grijalva	McCollum	Scott (VA)				Green, Gene	McCotter	Scott, David
Grimm	McCotter	Scott, Austin				Griffin (AR)	McDermott	Sensenbrenner
Guinta	McDermott	Scott, David				Grijalva	McHenry	Serrano
Guthrie	McHenry	Sensenbrenner				Grimm	McIntyre	Sessions
Hahn	McIntyre	Serrano				Guinta	McKeon	Sewell
Hanabusa	McKeon	Sessions				Hahn	McKinley	Sherman
Hanna	McKinley	Sewell				Harris	Rodgers	Shimkus
Harper	McMorris	Sherman				Hartzer	McMorris	Shuler
Hastings (FL)	Rodgers	Shimkus				Hastings (FL)	McNerney	Shuster
Hastings (WA)	McNerney	Shuler				Hayworth	Meehan	Simpson
Heck	Meehan	Shuster				Heck	Meeks	Sires
Heinrich	Meeks	Simpson				Herrera Beutler	Mica	Slaughter
Hensarling	Mica	Sires				Higgins	Michaud	Smith (NE)
Herger	Michaud	Slaughter				Himes	Miller (FL)	Smith (NJ)
Herrera Beutler	Miller (FL)	Smith (NE)				Hinchey	Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)
Higgins	Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)				Hinojosa	Miller (NC)	Smith (WA)
Himes	Miller (NC)	Smith (WA)				Hirono	Miller, Gary	Southerland
Hinche	Miller, Gary	Southerland				Hochul	Moore	Speier
Hirono	Miller, George	Speier				Holden	Moran	Stark
Hochul	Moore	Stark				Holt	Mulvaney	Stearns
Holden	Moran	Stearns				Honda	Murphy (CT)	Stivers
Holt	Mulvaney	Stivers				Hoyer	Murphy (PA)	Sullivan
Huelskamp	Murphy (CT)	Stutzman				Huelskamp	Myrick	Sutton
Huizenga (MI)	Murphy (PA)	Sullivan				Hunt	Nadler	Terry
Hultgren	Myrick	Sutton				Huizenga (MI)	Napolitano	Thompson (CA)
Hunter	Nadler	Terry				Hultgren	Neal	Thompson (MS)
Hurt	Napolitano	Thompson (CA)				Inslee	Neugebauer	Thompson (PA)
Israel	Neal	Thompson (MS)				Issa	Noem	Thornberry
Issa	Neugebauer	Thompson (PA)					Nugent	Tiberi
	Noem	Thornberry					Nunes	Tierney
	Nugent	Tiberi					Nunnelee	Tipton
	Nunes	Tierney					Olson	Tonko
	Nunnelee	Tipton					Olver	Towns
	Olson	Tonko					Owens	Tsongas
	Olver	Towns					Palazzo	Turner (NY)
	Owens	Tsongas					Pallone	Turner (OH)
	Palazzo	Turner (NY)					Pascrell	Upton

NOT VOTING—18

□ 1854

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEATH IN CUSTODY REPORTING ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 2189) to encourage States to report to the Attorney General certain information regarding the deaths of individuals in the custody of law enforcement agencies, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 398, nays 18, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 713]

YEAS—398

Ackerman	Bishop (UT)	Carney
Adams	Blackburn	Carson (IN)
Aderholt	Blumenauer	Carter
Akin	Bonner	Cassidy
Alexander	Bono Mack	Castor (FL)
Altmire	Boren	Chabot
Amodei	Boswell	Chaffetz
Andrews	Boustany	Chandler
Austria	Brady (PA)	Chu
Bachus	Brady (TX)	Cicilline
Baldwin	Braley (IA)	Clarke (MI)
Barletta	Brooks	Clarke (NY)
Barrow	Brown (FL)	Clay
Bartlett	Buchanan	Cleaver
Barton (TX)	Bucshon	Clyburn
Bass (CA)	Burgess	Coble
Bass (NH)	Burton (IN)	Coffman (CO)
Becerra	Butterfield	Cohen
Benishak	Calvert	Cole
Berg	Camp	Conaway
Berkley	Campbell	Connolly (VA)
Berman	Canseco	Conyers
Biggert	Cantor	Cooper
Bilbray	Capito	Costa
Bilirakis	Capps	Costello
Bishop (GA)	Capuano	Courtney
Bishop (NY)	Cardoza	Cravaack

Van Hollen	Watt	Wolf
Velázquez	Waxman	Womack
Visclosky	Webster	Woolsey
Walberg	Welch	Yarmuth
Walden	West	Yoder
Walz (MN)	Whitfield	Young (AK)
Wasserman	Wilson (FL)	Young (IN)
Schultz	Wilson (SC)	
Waters	Wittman	

NAYS—18

Amash	Graves (GA)	Pearce
Broun (GA)	Harris	Poe (TX)
Duncan (SC)	Kingston	Stutzman
Duncan (TN)	Labrador	Walsh (IL)
Flake	Landry	Westmoreland
Gohmert	Marchant	Woodall

NOT VOTING—17

Baca	Gutierrez	Reichert
Bachmann	Lewis (GA)	Rohrabacher
Black	Markey	Ryan (WI)
Buerkle	McGovern	Schrader
Carnahan	Paul	Young (FL)
Giffords	Quayle	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in the vote.

□ 1903

Messrs. POE of Texas, WESTMORELAND, and KINGSTON changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VETERANS HEALTH CARE FACILITIES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2646) to authorize certain Department of Veterans Affairs major medical facility projects and leases, to extend certain expiring provisions of law, and to modify certain authorities of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 3, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 714]

YEAS—412

Ackerman	Bass (CA)	Bono Mack
Adams	Bass (NH)	Boren
Aderholt	Becerra	Boswell
Akin	Benishek	Boustany
Alexander	Berg	Brady (PA)
Altmire	Berkley	Brady (TX)
Amash	Berman	Braley (IA)
Amodei	Biggart	Brooks
Andrews	Bilbray	Broun (GA)
Austria	Bilirakis	Brown (FL)
Bachus	Bishop (GA)	Buchanan
Baldwin	Bishop (NY)	Bucshon
Barletta	Bishop (UT)	Burgess
Barrow	Blackburn	Burton (IN)
Bartlett	Blumenauer	Butterfield
Barton (TX)	Bonner	Calvert

Camp	Granger	McCarthy (CA)
Campbell	Graves (GA)	McCarthy (NY)
Canseco	Graves (MO)	McCaul
Cantor	Green, Al	McClintock
Capito	Green, Gene	McCollum
Capps	Griffin (AR)	McCotter
Capuano	Griffith (VA)	McDermott
Cardoza	Grijalva	McHenry
Carney	Grimm	McIntyre
Carson (IN)	Guinta	McKeon
Carter	Guthrie	McKinley
Cassidy	Hahn	McMorris
Castor (FL)	Hall	Rodgers
Chabot	Hanabusa	McNerney
Chaffetz	Hanna	Meehan
Chandler	Harper	Meeks
Chu	Harris	Mica
Ciilline	Hartzler	Michaud
Clarke (MI)	Hastings (FL)	Miller (FL)
Clarke (NY)	Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)
Clay	Hayworth	Miller (NC)
Cleaver	Heck	Miller, Gary
Clyburn	Heinrich	Miller, George
Coble	Hensarling	Moore
Coffman (CO)	Herger	Moran
Cohen	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (CT)
Cole	Higgins	Murphy (PA)
Conaway	Himes	Myrick
Connolly (VA)	Hinchee	Nadler
Conyers	Hinojosa	Napolitano
Cooper	Hirono	Neal
Costa	Hochul	Neugebauer
Costello	Holden	Noem
Courtney	Holt	Nugent
Cravaack	Honda	Nunes
Crawford	Hoyer	Nunnelee
Crenshaw	Huelskamp	Olson
Critz	Huizenga (MI)	Olver
Crowley	Hultgren	Owens
Cuellar	Hunter	Palazzo
Culberson	Inslee	Pallone
Cummings	Israel	Pascarell
Davis (CA)	Issa	Pastor (AZ)
Davis (IL)	Jackson (IL)	Paulsen
Davis (KY)	Jackson Lee	Payne
DeFazio	(TX)	Pearce
DeGette	Jenkins	Pelosi
DeLauro	Johnson (GA)	Pence
Denham	Johnson (IL)	Perlmutter
Dent	Johnson (OH)	Peters
DesJarlais	Johnson, E. B.	Peterson
Deutch	Johnson, Sam	Petri
Diaz-Balart	Jones	Pingree (ME)
Dicks	Jordan	Pitts
Dingell	Kaptur	Platts
Doggett	Keating	Poe (TX)
Dold	Kelly	Polis
Donnelly (IN)	Kildee	Pompeo
Doyle	Kind	Posey
Dreier	King (IA)	Price (GA)
Duffy	King (NY)	Price (NC)
Duncan (SC)	Kingston	Quigley
Duncan (TN)	Kinzinger (IL)	Rahall
Edwards	Kissell	Rangel
Ellison	Kline	Reed
Ellmers	Kucinich	Rehberg
Emerson	Labrador	Renacci
Engel	Lamborn	Reyes
Eshoo	Lance	Ribble
Farenthold	Landry	Richardson
Farr	Langevin	Richmond
Fattah	Lankford	Rigell
Finer	Larsen (WA)	Rivera
Fincher	Larson (CT)	Roby
Fitzpatrick	Latham	Roe (TN)
Flake	LaTourette	Rogers (AL)
Fleischmann	Latta	Rogers (KY)
Fleming	Lee (CA)	Rogers (MI)
Flores	Levin	Rokita
Forbes	Lewis (CA)	Rooney
Fortenberry	Lipinski	Ros-Lehtinen
Fox	LoBlundo	Roskam
Frank (MA)	Loeb	Ross (AR)
Franks (AZ)	Loeb	Ross (FL)
Frelinghuysen	Lofgren, Zoe	Rothman (NJ)
Fudge	Long	Roybal-Allard
Gallegly	Lowey	Royce
Garamendi	Lucas	Runyan
Gardner	Luetkemeyer	Ruppersberger
Garrett	Lujan	Rush
Gerlach	Lungren, Daniel	Ryan (OH)
Gibbs	E.	Sánchez, Linda
Gibson	Lynch	T.
Gingrey (GA)	Mack	Sánchez, Loretta
Gohmert	Maloney	Sarbanes
Gonzalez	Manzullo	Scalise
Goodlatte	Marchant	Schakowsky
Gosar	Marino	Schiff
Gowdy	Matheson	Schilling
	Matsui	

Schmidt	Speier	Walberg
Schock	Stark	Walden
Schwartz	Stearns	Walsh (IL)
Schweikert	Stivers	Walz (MN)
Scott (SC)	Stutzman	Wasserman
Scott (VA)	Sullivan	Schultz
Scott, Austin	Sutton	Waters
Scott, David	Terry	Watt
Sensenbrenner	Thompson (CA)	Waxman
Serrano	Thompson (MS)	Webster
Sessions	Thompson (PA)	Welch
Sewell	Thornberry	West
Sherman	Tiberi	Westmoreland
Shinkus	Tierney	Whitfield
Shuler	Tipton	Wilson (FL)
Shuster	Tonko	Wittman
Simpson	Towns	Wolf
Sires	Tsongas	Womack
Slaughter	Turner (NY)	Woodall
Smith (NE)	Turner (OH)	Woolsey
Smith (NJ)	Upton	Yarmuth
Smith (TX)	Van Hollen	Yoder
Smith (WA)	Velázquez	Young (AK)
Southerland	Visclosky	Young (IN)

NAYS—3

Lummis	Mulvaney	Wilson (SC)
--------	----------	-------------

NOT VOTING—18

Baca	Gutierrez	Quayle
Bachmann	Hurt	Reichert
Black	Lewis (GA)	Rohrabacher
Buerkle	Markey	Ryan (WI)
Carnahan	McGovern	Schrader
Giffords	Paul	Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1910

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNEST HOUSE, SR.

(Mr. TIPTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the former Ute Mountain Ute tribal leader from the Weeminuche Tribe, Ernest House, Sr. Over the past 30 years, his influence, dedication, and leadership to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe has grown the tribe's influence in the State of Colorado and in the United States.

Mr. House is the grandson of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's last hereditary chief, Chief Jack House. In the last years of Chief Jack House's life, Mr. Ernest House, Sr., cared for him, learning much about the tribe's history and potential for future plans.

Mr. House was first elected to the Ute Mountain Tribal Council in 1979. Three years later, Mr. House became chairman for the first time, beginning the first of his four nonconsecutive 4-year terms as chairman of the Ute Mountain Tribe, his last term ending in 2010.

As chairman, Mr. House helped the Ute Tribe accomplish several projects that widened the tribe's economic and natural resource development. Between 1986 and 1988, Mr. House worked to complete two major water compacts to

provide water throughout the Ute territories. In addition, Mr. House oversaw several building projects, including a tribal health center and casino. In his last term as chairman, Mr. House, Sr., focused primarily on tribal safety, widening the tribe's police force from 2 officers to more than 12 officers.

On Saturday, September 17, 2011, Mr. House was tragically taken from us after a motorcycle accident outside of Cortez, Colorado.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to recognize Mr. Ernest House, Sr. His leadership and dedication to the Ute Tribe has benefited thousands, and he will be greatly missed by the Ute Tribe and the State of Colorado.

PASS THE JOBS BILL

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the 64 percent of Americans—and growing—who say, "Pass the jobs bill."

I rise on behalf of those who have sought to get work time and time again. I rise on behalf of the citizens of the State of Texas, for the 8.3 percent—and growing—unemployed individuals in our own State, which has been represented to be a State that has no unemployment. We are resilient, yes. But in working with the United States, it is important to note that we must do something to restore the opportunities for people to work and to restore human dignity.

As the President said, we should have one purpose in this House. It should be to work for the American people. We can balance this budget, we can reduce the deficit, but we really can put people to work: firefighters and teachers and police officers. We can invest in this economy, we can provide education, and we can put Americans back to work.

Let's not make ourselves number one. Let's make the American people number one. Pass the jobs bill now.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. CANSECO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CANSECO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 25th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month.

America is a Nation of immigrants, and each immigrant group has added to the richness that is American culture. Hispanics are no different and are an important chapter in the story of America.

My parents came to this country from Mexico, seeking the American Dream. They instilled in me the belief that with hard work and dedication, one could create a better future. This is one of the great common denominators of the immigrant experience in America. They raised me to believe

that, in America, the land of opportunity, if I worked hard every day I could make a difference for myself and my family.

This month gives us the opportunity to celebrate Americans of Hispanic ancestry because they believe in the American Dream and have made a difference in their lives and in America by chasing this dream.

Just as my parents taught me, I believe that individual freedom and liberty will lead us to a future of economic and social prosperity. Our businesses will grow, our economy will prosper, and America will continue to thrive.

Hispanics understand the vitality of small businesses as the single fastest-growing segment of small businesses in this country, generating almost \$400 billion in annual revenue. I believe that Hispanics will continue to play a vital role in the American economy and society, and that their contributions will only continue to grow.

□ 1920

SMALL BUSINESS IS BIGGEST ENGINE FOR JOB CREATION

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, listening to the prior Member talk about small business, I have to say I agree that small business is the biggest engine for job creation in this country.

It was such a pleasure today to join Vice President JOE BIDEN at Wrap-Tite, Inc., in Solon, Ohio, and to see the role that government must play when the market isn't fully functioning and when the banks aren't fully lending, and to see the Small Business Administration's 504 loan guarantee program at work creating jobs at this wonderful, wonderful company that now has millions and millions of dollars in sales.

When the regular banks weren't working, it was the SBA, Small Business Administration, that we support, some of us support, that was able to draw on the capital that made possible the investment for expansion, and they have hired five more people.

Imagine if there were 30,000 more companies in America that could do that, with the changes in the Jobs Act that the President is proposing, in order to reduce payroll taxes on individuals, as well as businesses and the other incentives for small business creation, we can really help lift this economy when she can't lift herself alone. It was a pleasure to be there today.

I congratulate Wrap-Tite and want to say it was great to celebrate that patriotic spirit of making the market work.

PULMONARY FIBROSIS AWARENESS WEEK

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, 48,000 Americans a year walk out of their doctor's office with the news that they have pulmonary fibrosis, joining the nearly 200,000 Americans already afflicted with this little understood killer. There is no known cure for this lethal lung disease, which takes the life of an American on average every 13 seconds, more than 40,000 individuals annually, roughly the same number as those afflicted with breast cancer.

This week is National Pulmonary Fibrosis Awareness Week, and I ask my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the Pulmonary Fibrosis Research Enhancement Act. This bipartisan legislation will create a national registry, encourage Federal research at the National Institutes of Health, and also create a national action plan so that we can better understand this deadly disease and one day discover an effective treatment.

Madam Speaker, this effort is really critical to giving hope to the hundreds of thousands of people who live with this debilitating disease.

HONORING SENATOR CHARLES PERCY

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Senator Charles Percy, who passed away just this last week at the age of 91. Senator Percy served the great State of Illinois for 18 years. His leadership was recognized by his colleagues, and he went on to chair the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was also beloved by his constituents for his efforts to provide home ownership to low-income families and his work to eliminate corruption in judicial selection in Chicago and ensuring that all judicial nominations were done through a strict advisory process.

I am honored to say that Senator Percy is from the 10th District. He is also a graduate of New Trier High School, as am I. In fact, I remember delivering literature as a child for Senator Percy.

Senator Percy's legacy will remain in the hearts and minds of the people of Illinois. Always fighting for justice and those without a voice, he is truly going to be missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family today.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. RIVERA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. RIVERA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor and pride that I join Congressman CANSECO and my fellow Hispanic American Members of Congress in recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month.

Hispanic Heritage Month provides us with the opportunity to acknowledge

the enormously positive contributions of Hispanic Americans to this diverse Nation of ours. Hispanic Americans are some of the most patriotic and hard-working people that America has ever known. Whether serving in the military or creating jobs, the Hispanic community is the embodiment of the American Dream and the embodiment of American values, faith in God, devotion to family and love of country, which is precisely why Hispanic Heritage Month is an entirely appropriate time to commend the Hispanic American community for enriching the diverse fiber of this great Nation.

A TRIBUTE TO LEO BORJA TUDELA

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, as we struggle with the future of the United States Postal Service, I want to pay tribute to one of the many dedicated individuals who has kept the mail on its way to our homes and businesses in this Nation for almost five decades.

Mr. Leo Borja Tudela was born in the village of Garapan in the Northern Mariana Islands in 1943. His mother, Magdalena Tudela Salas, was the daughter of Jesus Sablan Tudela and Anunciacion Borja Tudela, who raised their grandson.

Leo worked very hard for an education, moving to Guam for high school, returning to college after service in the United States Army, and finally earning a master's degree with honors in California.

Mr. Tudela took his education and crafted a career with the Postal Service, rising to a vice presidency, and today directing operations in the Asia/Pacific-Micronesia region as a member of the Postal Career Executive Service.

Leo Borja Tudela's career exemplifies the power and benefit of education. I congratulate him. And I encourage young people in the Northern Mariana Islands and throughout America to follow that example for their own benefit and for the ultimate benefit of our Nation.

Today, as we struggle with the future of the U.S. Postal Service, I want to take a moment to pay tribute to one of the many dedicated individuals, who has kept the mail on its way to our homes and businesses in this nation for almost five decades.

Mr. Leo Borja Tudela was born in the Northern Mariana Islands in the village of Garapan on the island of Saipan on July 17, 1943. His mother, Magdalena Tudela Salas, was the daughter of Jesus Sablan Tudela and Anunciacion Borja Tudela, who raised their grandson.

Leo was educated at William S. Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa, graduating with honors. During his elementary years, Leo also served as an altar boy at the Chalan Kanoa Diocese Catholic Church. There he met Pale Arnold, who recognized the young man's

intelligence and drive and arranged for him to attend St. Jude Intermediate Catholic School in Sinajana on Guam under the sponsorship of the Capuchin Fathers in Agaña Heights. Leo completed his education on Guam at George Washington High School, serving as editor in chief of the yearbook and graduating in 1962 with honors.

Mr. Borja's education was interrupted by the draft—he served in the U.S. Army for three years, earning a Soldier of the Month Award and Good Conduct Medal before being honorably discharged. But after this military service, Mr. Tudela immediately returned to his education. He first entered the Junior College of San Mateo, California, then moved to California State University at Hayward, California.

This is also when he began to work for the U.S. Postal Service, which would become his life-long career. He took up a part-time position as a postal assistant in South San Francisco, and later moved to full-time, though still in school. Mr. Borja worked the graveyard shift, eight hours each night, then went to his college classes in the morning. Afternoons and evenings were devoted to studies and a little rest. Then at eleven o'clock at night it was back to the post office to move the mail. Mr. Borja maintained this grueling schedule throughout the time it took to earn first his bachelor's degree and then a master's—graduating with honors in both degrees.

Now Mr. Borja's postal career began in earnest. He was promoted to management and sent as an equal employment office specialist to Salt Lake City, Utah. His next assignment was as MSC Director of Employee and Labor Relations in Boise, Idaho, then District Director of E&LR in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in Boston, Massachusetts, and in Santa Ana, California. Moving up the management ladder, Mr. Borja was appointed to be the Manager Sectional Center, City of Industry, East of Los Angeles, California, Division Manager/Postmaster in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and District Manager for South Florida in Miami.

In 1992, he became the Vice President for the Southeast Area, responsible for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Tennessee and Mississippi. He oversaw operations involving more than 92,000 employees, 20,731 post offices, and a budget of three billion dollars.

Throughout his rise in responsibility, Mr. Tudela—and the Postal Service—continued to invest in his education. He attended a number of executive training programs in the Ivy League, at MIT, the University of Virginia, and at Duke.

Though his career had taken him far from his humble roots in the Northern Mariana Islands, Mr. Tudela never forgot his home; and, eventually, his postal service work returned him to the Pacific. He is presently the Director, Asia/Pacific-Micronesia, PCES—Postal Career Executive Service, overseeing all mail to and from Micronesia. He is involved with managing, and participated in crafting, the compact agreements between the United States and the Freely Associated States of Micronesia, which include the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. This work requires him to coordinate with the U.S. State Department and its three embassies in these nations, and with the U.S. Department of the Interior, which also has responsibilities in the region. The U.S. Postal Service and the services it provides are an important component of

those compact relationships, benefiting both the Freely Associated States governments and businesses in Micronesia.

He has contributed to development on his home island, as well. In 1990, Mr. Tudela was very instrumental in building a new post office in his birth village of Chalan Kanoa. Land was at a premium on the islands at that time and the Northern Marianas government asked for three million dollars for the property needed for the new facility. Mr. Tudela, through his personal perseverance, worked with the local government, even having local legislation enacted, which resulted in the land being leased to the Postal Service for just one dollar per year for 40 years, with an option for another 40 years truly an example of good financial management at the Postal Service. With the land issue overcome, Mr. Tudela then took personal interest in overseeing the design and construction of the new post office in "C.K.," which the community much enjoys to this day.

Certainly another point of pride for Mr. Tudela has been the opportunity to participate in dedication of special issue stamps commemorating his home. In 1993, Mr. Tudela was there to dedicate the Northern Mariana Islands stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service. And just last month, on August 12, he dedicated the Northern Mariana Islands stamp that is part of the Flags of Our Nation series.

Although this well-deserved tribute is for Mr. Leo Borja Tudela, it is my hope that calling attention to his life, which began so humbly but has proceeded to become so noteworthy, will serve as an inspiration for others from the Northern Mariana Islands. The lesson is well known, but not always applied: pursue an education—not just in youth, but throughout life, do your best, persevere, work hard. Your effort will be rewarded, just as it has for Mr. Leo Borja Tudela, and will benefit us all.

CHINESE DRYWALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. ROBY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. RIGELL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. RIGELL. Now, imagine you worked hard and saved for a down payment of your own, a down payment on the American Dream. Imagine that you found the right place, secured the financing and happily started your life as a homeowner.

Now, imagine months later, though, that your house is filled with a putrid, rotten, egg-like odor that just permeates your home, makes your children sick with severe headaches and nose bleeds. Imagine the mounting frustration when the copper coils on your AC unit and your refrigerator corrode, develop leaks and have to be replaced again and again and again.

You ultimately have to move your family into a rental home and find out that the cause of all of this pain and grief is nothing other than defective drywall that fills your home and was imported from China. Madam Speaker, many of my constituents don't have to imagine that nightmare. They are experiencing it and living it right now.

Some have been dealing with this issue for more than 2 years without relief. Many are severely financially strained as they continue to have to pay the mortgage on the first home and then go out and find a second residence to live in and pay for both. Some have had their homes foreclosed on. Some have gone into bankruptcy. I have been in these homes. These people are hurting, our fellow American citizens.

And because our legal system is flawed, the manufacturers of the contaminated drywall that is coming from China are not being held accountable for a defective, dangerous product. Even if a judgment is made in favor of the homeowners, it can't be enforced.

That is not right. Homeowners' insurance and builders' insurance is not covering the damages. At the end of the day, who is left holding the bag? It's the owner of the home. This is not the American way.

Their finances are devastated, their credit ratings are ruined. Now I am working with a bipartisan group with my colleagues doing everything we can on the Contaminated Drywall Caucus to forge a better path for our fellow citizens.

We have had hearings, we have met with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, we have written letters to the President. We have asked for assistance from the United States Trade Representative, but it's not enough. We must, we must hold the Chinese manufacturers accountable for the defective products they shipped to our Nation and that fill our American homes.

So I call on the committees of jurisdiction to hold hearings, to investigate and move forward some practical solutions to this problem that is hurting so many of our neighbors.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) is recognized for the remainder of the hour.

Mr. BROOKS. Madam Speaker, according to a 2009 study by the Pew Hispanic Center, 7.8 million illegal aliens hold jobs in America. Madam Speaker, there is a sure-fire way to create jobs now for American citizens: evict all illegal aliens from America and immediately open up millions of jobs for unemployed Americans.

The eviction of illegal aliens from America has the side benefit of eliminating the abundance of cheap, illegal alien labor which, in turn, forces blue color wages up, thus helping American families afford and pursue the American Dream.

□ 1930

Unfortunately, Madam Speaker, there are those in Washington who chase a different dream, a class warfare

nightmare, that pits unemployed Americans against illegal aliens in a competition for scarce jobs.

The White House and too many Members of Congress seek amnesty for millions of illegal aliens, thereby legitimizing criminal conduct and depriving American citizens of job opportunities.

Madam Speaker, Congress and the White House must create jobs now for American citizens. We can and must fight for American citizens, not turn our heads the other way, which gives illegal aliens preference over American citizens.

But the issue of illegal aliens is greater than just jobs and better incomes for American citizens. Illegal aliens crowd our hospital emergency rooms, delaying treatment for Americans and driving up health care costs because too many illegal aliens don't pay their bills. Too often, illegal aliens get free health care on the backs of our already stressed American taxpayers. Illegal aliens also do not produce enough in tax revenue to pay for our schools; yet illegal alien children overcrowd our schools, thereby reducing the quality of education for American children.

Illegal aliens commit horrendous crimes against American citizens, crimes that strain State and Federal judicial systems, police and sheriff departments, and prisons that are already overcrowded and in a financial crisis.

Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, in one of her last Supreme Court opinions, wrote in 2005 in *Medellin v. Drake*, that: "In 2003, over 56,000 noncitizens were held in State prisons. Noncitizens accounted for over 10 percent of the prison populations in California, New York, and Arizona. As of February 2005, 119 noncitizens from 31 nations were on State death row."

Madam Speaker, so that I am clear, let me emphasize that death row is not just for any kind of murderer. Death row is for murders where victims are tortured or raped before killed. Death row is for murders where multiple citizens are killed. In sum, death row is reserved for only the most heinous of murderers.

Hundreds if not thousands of Americans are dead today because the United States Government has been derelict in its duty to protect American citizens from illegal aliens.

For example, in my home of Madison County, Alabama, population roughly 300,000 people, we have had more American citizens killed or murdered by illegal aliens than we have had lost in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. Madam Speaker, let me share with you a personal story that happens to have happened in Huntsville, Alabama. But, the truth be told, similar events have likely happened throughout America.

On April 17, 2009, a 19-year-old man in my hometown of Huntsville by the name of Tad Mattle was needlessly killed by an illegal alien who has since

been convicted of murder and sentenced to 15 years in prison, at a cost to Alabama taxpayers well into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

So that we are clear about the illegal alien's conduct, he was drunk. He was wanted for crimes in several States. When he murdered Tad Mattle, he was fleeing the scene of yet another crime. What had Tad Mattle done wrong? Absolutely nothing.

Tad Mattle was driving home from a church social with his girlfriend. He was lawfully stopped at an intersection not far from my own home. After everything was said and done, at the end of an illegal alien crime spree, both Tad Mattle and his girlfriend were subject to force trauma and burned beyond recognition. Both died.

Why did this needless crime occur? Why were these two young person's lives snuffed out? Because our American Government has steadfastly failed and refused to protect American citizens from illegal aliens.

Madam Speaker, please let me share with you information about Tad Mattle, told in the words of his grieving father, Dan Mattle:

Tad Mattle was the first child of Dan and Terri Mattle, born on November 8, 1989, in Florissant, Missouri. Tad was very curious and enjoyed figuring out how things worked. Shortly after his parents installed safety locks on all of the cupboards, he figured them out and then taught his little brother how to defeat them.

He loved to play outside in the dirt and loved the water. He enjoyed trying different sports. More than anything, however, he loved building and creating. To the frustration of his parents, he would scatter Legos all over the floor as he created ships, starships, and airplanes. On family vacations, he revealed in the sand as he built sand castles. When he was 8 years old, he helped his father rebuild an engine on the family truck.

At age 9, Tad Mattle and his family moved back to Huntsville, Alabama. Being very social, he quickly made new friends at church and school.

In Cub Scouts, he achieved the Arrow of Light award. In his last year, he won the Pack Pinewood Derby Contest. In middle school, Tad joined the Boy Scouts and joined the school band as a percussionist. Tad thoroughly enjoyed making music, and he kept switching between first and second chair with one of his friends.

During a scout trip in this period, Tad went caving with his father. By the time he was 13, he was a qualified vertical caver. By age 14, he had achieved a prestigious award among the caving community by completing his "Vertical 8."

In high school, Tad Mattle became heavily involved in the marching and symphonic bands. In his last 2 years, he served as the percussion section leader.

Tad also pursued an advanced diploma by taking advanced placement science and math classes. In addition

to these activities, he continued serving the community through Boy Scout and church youth group service projects. With his troop, in which he served as a leader, he participated in many different activities.

On a Boy Scout troop hike on the Appalachian Trail, Tad helped maintain morale with his goofy sense of humor. Tad is especially remembered for his Julie Andrews impersonation as he skipped down a meadow on Siler Bald, wearing a 40-pound backpack, while the troop sang "The Sound of Music."

Tad was very excited when he became old enough to drive. He wanted his own car, so he took a job to earn money for it. He bought a neglected Toyota Supra that cost only \$475. He spent the next few months restoring it to running condition. In his junior year of high school, Tad took an auto body collision repair course and completely restored the body of that car. He was so proud on the day he brought it home from the paint booth. He took meticulous care of that car and never abused it because he did not want to destroy all of his hard work.

During his senior year of high school, Tad achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. For his Eagle leadership service project, he chose to rebuild a boat dock at the Madison County Boat Harbor on the Tennessee River. The original dock was a hazard to users due to warped, splintered, and rotten boards. Tad's leadership resulted in 190 man-hours of volunteer labor that saved the county thousands of dollars.

In 2008, Tad graduated from high school with an advanced diploma. His dream was to work in an auto body collision repair and open his own shop. As he worked the following summer and winter, he realized that an education would be necessary to fulfill his dream. Tad applied to the University of Alabama in Huntsville, and with his excellent top 1 percent ACT score of 32, he was quickly accepted. On April 14, 2009, just 3 days before his murder, Tad received a letter awarding him the UAH Presidential Full Scholarship which covered all tuition for his mechanical engineering degree. Tad was so excited as he read this letter to his parents that night.

Three days later, on April 17, his father's birthday, Tad attended a church social with his family and girlfriend. After the social, he and his girlfriend headed to her cousin's house to watch a movie. While stopped at a traffic light, Tad's car was rammed by a truck driven by a drunk illegal immigrant who was fleeing from the police. Tad and his girlfriend were killed instantly, which was a blessing because the impact ruptured the gas tank of the car Tad had so meticulously restored and burned the two beyond recognition.

There were no skid marks from the drunken driver's vehicle, and accident investigations indicated the truck impacted between 67 and 72 miles per hour, almost double the legal speed limit. The illegal immigrant respon-

sible for this crash had seven different aliases, had four different DUI arrests, and was wanted by at least four other States for misdemeanors and felonies.

□ 1940

According to police records, he was to have been deported in 2001. Let me reread that part for emphasis. The illegal immigrant responsible for this crash had seven different aliases, had four prior DUI arrests, and was wanted by at least four other States for misdemeanors and felonies. According to police records, he was to have been deported in 2001.

Tad left behind a family that still mourns his loss. His brother and sister have dealt with depression, nightmares, and guilt. His mother still deals with days of depression. This loss was completely unnecessary but occurred because of a failure by the Federal Government to perform its duty to protect legal citizens' rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As Tad's father, all I ask is that the government perform its Constitutional obligations to its citizens to prevent other families from experiencing this same nightmare.

Madam Speaker, Tad Mattle's tragic story is one of many that I could tell here today, and his story illustrates so clearly why the Federal Government must stop being derelict in its duty to ensure the safety and security of American citizens.

There are many Tad Mattles in America, each and every one of them victims of crimes that could have been prevented. In that vein, I introduced the Jobs for Americans Act. It empowers State and local governments to help the Federal Government by passing laws that identify illegal aliens, deter illegal aliens from entering the United States, apprehend illegal aliens, or encourage or otherwise cause illegal aliens to leave the United States.

States aren't asking for another Federal handout. They're asking for freedom from Federal interference. They're asking for the freedom to protect their citizens' lives and livelihoods. This act ensures that the Federal Government will appreciate, not punish, States that do the hard work of enforcing our laws.

Madam Speaker, when States like Arizona, Alabama, Georgia, and many others act to stop illegal aliens, they should be given letters of appreciation from Washington leaders for doing Washington's job. Instead, they receive lawsuits from the President's Justice Department. That is wrong. And the Justice Department's conduct will only victimize more American citizens.

Madam Speaker, my Jobs for Americans Act prevents these wasteful Justice Department lawsuits against States that are only trying to protect their citizens from illegal aliens and the Federal Government's dereliction of its duties.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting American jobs. The Jobs for Americans Act does just what

it says. It returns jobs to the American people. Its premise is simple. If the Federal Government won't do its job, it should get out of the way for States and those who will.

At this point, I yield to my good colleague from Alabama.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentleman from Alabama, my colleague in the Fifth Congressional District, for organizing this tonight. We are all here tonight to discuss what America is facing, and that is a self-imposed security crisis.

The main concern is that it appears that the administration is ignoring its responsibility to enforce our Nation's immigration laws. For our security, economic well-being, and safety, immigration enforcement does matter.

Since the beginning of the current administration, we have seen decisions and policies that have denigrated immigration enforcement. It started with the identification of "priorities" where the Department of Homeland Security announced it would focus largely on removing only those aliens convicted of serious crimes.

More recently, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, as it is referred to, issued guidance directing broad use of prosecutorial discretion. Let me explain how that works. ICE agents locate a fugitive who has been ordered to be removed. The fugitive is arrested in his apartment where four other people are present. ICE agents ascertain that all these individuals are illegal aliens, though they do not have an actual criminal conviction. Pursuant to ICE priorities, these individuals would not be arrested.

This process on whether to prosecute or not was intended to be exercised on a case-by-case basis, not by front-line officers directed to ignore the law, but by supervisors and attorneys looking at the law and the facts of a particular case and considering humanitarian concerns or national security interests. Now, front-line agents and officers in the middle of an encounter are being asked to essentially conduct an on-the-spot investigation.

Under the administration's policy, front-line officers and agents don't have much of a choice but to ignore the law and leave the illegal alien behind, unless the alien is a fugitive or has an actual criminal conviction.

Not only do we have memos directing front-line officers to ignore illegal aliens under the current administration, but we have committees second-guessing decisions officers, attorneys, and judges make. The Department of Homeland Security set up a task force of outsiders to tell the Secretary whether this policy should include ignoring illegal aliens encountered at traffic stops and those who would have drunk driving violations. The Department is also establishing a committee to review all 400,000 immigration proceedings, including for aliens with final removal orders, to decide whether

these illegal aliens should actually be removed.

This is the problem, and it leads to cases like the one that my colleague from Alabama just talked about, Tad Mattle. The new policy, in effect, refuses to enforce immigration law until, and let me stress that, until a serious, perhaps violent crime, has been committed. If immigration law had been enforced, Tad's life may have been spared.

Today, more than ever, our Nation's fiscal resources are constrained. Despite that fact, this body has made immigration enforcement and homeland security a priority. Congress, under both Republican and Democrat leadership, has consistently provided ICE with funds above those funds they have requested, and that's to ensure strong enforcement and security. Funds the Department of Homeland Security received at the hand of this Chamber should not be used to blatantly ignore the law or for the implementation of flawed and reckless policies that provide backdoor amnesty.

These memos and committees may allow millions of illegal immigrants to remain in the United States in violation of existing law and regulation and compete with unemployed Americans and legal immigrants working for scarce jobs.

While the Federal Government seems to find loopholes to keep illegal aliens who pose public safety threats in this country, States like my home State of Alabama are being prosecuted for attempting to take this problem into their own hands. Alabama and other States burdened with these issues shouldn't have to worry about Federal intervention. Alabama was the fifth State in this country to adopt laws addressing illegal immigration. The legislature of Alabama and the Governor have opted to act. Instead, the administration has filed a judicial action. The administration should take this as a wake-up call, a bold reminder of the Federal Government's duty to protect each and every American from being the victim of crimes that can so easily be prevented. The Federal Government should be working with States to ensure the safety of all Americans.

This is not a time for partisan politics. This is a time for a robust, coordinated effort to guarantee the security of our citizens and to protect our Nation's borders.

I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding.

Mr. BROOKS. Madam Speaker, I next recognize the gentlelady from Tennessee, Congresswoman DIANE BLACK.

Mrs. BLACK. I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding.

Madam Speaker, the tragic death of Tad Mattle that took place in Huntsville, Alabama, on April 17, 2009, serves as a sad reminder of the broken immigration system that we have here in the United States. We see stories like this in our local newspapers and on our local and national news. They're re-

mindings that we have a serious illegal immigration problem in our country and the need to take action to secure our borders. As a member of the Immigration Reform Caucus, I believe that while we are a nation of immigrants, we are first and foremost a nation of laws. I'm a cosponsor of a number of comprehensive bills that would help combat illegal immigration. One bill, the CLEAR Act, would authorize State and local law enforcement to assist in the enforcement of the U.S. immigration laws, which means that they can investigate, apprehend, and transfer over to ICE officials illegal aliens in the United States.

□ 1950

Another bill that I'm cosponsoring goes after sanctuary cities, denying State Criminal Alien Assistance Program funding for any State or local government that has in place any law, policy, or procedure that breaks Federal immigration law.

The SAVE Act is another great bill. The SAVE Act would increase Border Patrol and investigative personnel, encourage recruitment of former military personnel and use of Department of Defense equipment, calls on the administration to develop a national strategy to secure our borders and, finally, directs authorities to check against terrorist watch lists those persons suspected of alien smuggling and smuggled individuals.

Defense of our country and securing our borders is one of the primary responsibilities of government, and I believe that those who enter this country illegally are not only breaking the law, but risking the very security of this country.

I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. BROOKS. Madam Speaker, I next recognize the gentleman from Georgia, Congressman ROB WOODALL.

Mr. WOODALL. I appreciate my friend from Alabama for yielding.

Candidly, I can't say it much better than my freshman colleague from Tennessee just did. We are a Nation of immigrants, and we are a Nation of laws. And my question is, When did it become so clear to everyone else that those things were in conflict with one another? Because when I look at it, it's not in conflict at all; in fact, it's in concert, in concert with one another.

It was hard to listen to the story that my friend from Alabama was telling because it's not a story that you only hear once. It's a story that you hear heartbroken families tell over and over and over again. It's a family in Alabama, it's a family in Georgia, it's a mom in South Carolina, and it's a grandmother from Indiana, and on and on and on.

What I want to know is, Who is it who's coming to defend that story tonight? Because I hear it in town hall meetings all the time, and I know my friend from Alabama hears the same thing: ROB, I want you to go up there and I want you to fight for what's

right, and I don't want you to compromise. Well, I don't want to compromise on principle. There is absolutely no principle I have that I'm interested in compromising on. But what I tell folks back home is there's common ground. There's common ground where no matter where you sit on the political spectrum you can see your way clear to this path forward.

What I want to know from my colleagues—and I wish there were more of them in the Chamber tonight—and, again, I'm grateful to my friend from Alabama for putting this hour together—but where are the folks who oppose enforcing the laws? Where are the folks who believe that legal immigration is what we don't want and illegal immigration is what we do want?

Where are the folks who believe that when criminals commit crimes, they're not supposed to be prosecuted? Where are those folks defending that? Because what I see in my part of the world—and I'm there in the northeastern suburbs of Atlanta—what I see in my part of the world are people who are proud of our history as an immigrant Nation and proud of our future as an immigrant Nation.

I tell folks all the time I don't worry that people want to come to America. I worry about the one day people don't want to come to America. What happens when they want to take their big brain and their hard work ethic and their entrepreneurial ideas and take it to China or take it to India or take it to Brazil? I worry about that.

We have so many challenges, as my friend from Alabama knows, in terms of restructuring our legal immigration process. I am heartbroken that we spend even a moment arguing amongst ourselves about the necessity of shutting down illegal immigration now—not tomorrow, not a week from tomorrow, not after the next election cycle, today.

Of the few things that the United States Constitution empowers the Federal Government to do, requires that the Federal Government do, enforcing our border security is one; and we don't do that well. We have so many conversations down here, as the Speaker knows, about all the things the Federal Government should stick its nose into, as if we're going to do those well. What about the one the Constitution requires us to do, which is secure our borders?

For me, the untalked-about victim in the illegal immigration debate is the legal immigrant. Have you ever been to a naturalization ceremony? Do you have any friends who have been naturalized, who have earned the right to be a United States citizen? Wow. Wow. It's tears, but it's tears of joy. I wish we were teaching the same thing to our young people in schools that we're teaching to our immigrants in their citizenship classes, who are developing this deep and abiding respect for the rule of law and the American way of life.

And the victim, when we turn a blind eye to illegal immigration, is the legal immigrant who does it all right because they're the victim of the animus that comes out of this debate. They're a victim of the sadness. In fact, I will tell you, the angriest people—again, I come from the Deep South. A lot of folks have a lot of stereotypes about how it is in the Deep South. But I will tell you, the angriest people in my part of the world about illegal immigration are not the ninth generation white guy; it's the legal immigrants.

Somebody stopped me the other day and they said, ROB, if you ever pass an amnesty bill—which we never will do, just to be clear, never, ever going to happen, not while I'm here in Congress—give me my money back. You can't give me my life back; you can't give me back all the years and years and years I worked and I waited on the list and I waited patiently in my home country until my number came up, you can't give me that back, but I want my money back because it wasn't cheap. It's not. Being a United States citizen is advanced citizenship. It requires great commitments, as it is a great opportunity; and we treat it in this country as if it's a nothing.

As my friend from Alabama knows, there's another bill, introduced by my friend from Iowa (Mr. KING), called the Birthright Citizenship Act—and I'm a cosponsor of that act—that goes back to the 14th Amendment. It goes back to that time in this country when we were struggling with our national identity and says those born in the United States, under the jurisdiction thereof, shall be United States citizens.

As you tell the story, I say to my friend from Alabama, of someone who has been convicted of crime after crime after crime, of someone who has warrants out for their arrest across the United States, of someone who hasn't yet found a single American law that they have chosen to obey, I tell you that person is not under the jurisdiction of the United States, and births that are associated with that person do not give rise to citizenship in the United States.

But the courts have said Congress just won't decide on this; Congress won't take a stand on this. Well, STEVE KING of Iowa said, yes, we will. And I was proud to join him on that to define what is the greatest gift we have in this country, and that's the gift of American citizenship. I was born with it, and I'm grateful for it every day of the week, but we treat it like it's nothing. And I will say to folks who think that it's nothing, go to one of these naturalization ceremonies. Talk to your friends and neighbors who have worked for it and earned it, and they will tell you that it's something.

And in the army that we're developing across America to come and stand strong on the issue of illegal immigration, the army that's forming across America to say we are proud that we're a Nation of immigrants, but

we're even more proud that we're a Nation of laws, that army is composed of legal immigrants of every stripe from coast to coast, from north to south. It makes me so proud because I think that's what America is all about.

I want to go back and say to the gentleman from Alabama, thank you for introducing the American Jobs Act. For folks who look those things up on TV, it's H.R. 2670, I believe; is that correct?

Mr. BROOKS. Yes.

Mr. WOODALL. Again, where are those folks? We're not talking about compromising our principles; we're talking about pursuing those things that are common ground. In this era of 10 percent unemployment, who are those folks who think that hard-working, taxpaying American citizens don't deserve that job first if they're willing to work for it? Who is that?

I'm sure that there has been an editorial or two in your local newspapers—if your newspapers are anything like mine—that have not reacted all that kindly to your decision to stand up and do what is right. But doing what's right is not always easy, and it's rarely appreciated in its time. It's often appreciated as history writes it. But who is it who believes that folks who have paid their taxes for a decade, who have been laid off in the middle part of their life, who can't afford to send their kids to college, who can't afford to buy medicine for their wife? Who are those people who believe that those folks don't deserve first crack at that job? First crack.

□ 2000

We have a legal immigration process in place in this country that will allow you to come here the right way, get a green card the right way, and apply for jobs just like everybody else. Folks do it. Do it, and I welcome you.

But in this era of unemployment, who are those folks who defend this practice of illegal labor? I will tell you, it's not just the folks who go to work. It's the folks who employ those folks who go to work. This is not about illegal immigrants alone. This is about those businesses that hire those illegal immigrants.

A crime is a crime here in this country. They're not all the heartbreaking crimes that my friend from Alabama has described, but they are crimes that have consequences. These are not victimless crimes. Illegal immigration is not a victimless crime.

The victim could be that American who can't find a job to support his kids and his family. The victim could be that school district that can't afford to sort out how those classes are going to go, that can't afford all the teachers, but has an increasing workload because of the children associated with illegal immigration today.

The victim could be that health care system that can't treat folks as they'd like to treat them, doesn't have enough money to deal with the community as

it is, and the burden keeps growing and growing and growing. It is not a victimless crime.

In terms of finding common ground, I looked at my friend ROB BISHOP's bill. ROB BISHOP is from Utah, and he's introduced H.R. 1505, the National Security and Federal Lands Act.

Now, the preposterous things that we discuss here in Washington, this is one. Look it up for yourself. H.R. 1505, what it does is it changes the law, changes the law so that Border Patrol agents can access areas of the border. Hear that. There is a bill in this Congress to change the law so that Border Patrol agents can get access to the border. 4.3 million acres of border designated wilderness along our southern border, and in those areas the Border Patrol can't use motorized vehicles, can't construct roads, can't even install security and communication apparatus. Hear that. Hear that.

The law of the land in America today is that the Border Patrol agents cannot patrol the borders. H.R. 1505 will change that, and I hope we'll pass that here.

I want to say finally to my friend from Alabama, you and I are both new here. I've only been here 9 months, and I'm learning something every day here. I was more than a little bit surprised when the administration came out and said, no, it's really not whether or not you're illegal; it's whether or not you're illegal and when we make our decisions about whether or not to deport you.

But what I learned in that conversation is that we have a backlog of deportations in this country. When we talk about funding priorities in this country, for the last 9 months I've been focusing on funding the Border Patrol. I thought what we needed were more boots on the ground, and I still believe we do. But what I have learned from the administration is we also need more bottoms in the seats in immigration courtrooms across this country. We may need more immigration judges. If we don't have enough people to process all the deportations that are in line, what we need is not to stop the deportations; what we need is to hire more people to process those deportations.

I tell you, I'm a small government conservative. You're not going to find many government programs that I want to come down here and spend money on. But again, the Constitution has given to you and me the responsibility of enforcing this part of the law, has given us the responsibility of securing our borders; and if what it takes to be successful is spending more money to hire more immigration court judges to fill more buses to comply with more of the law that is, in fact, the law of the land, then I'm prepared to do that.

I appreciate the administration, again, for educating me in that way, because I had no idea that we were so successful at identifying folks and we

just weren't successful at finishing that deportation process.

So I say to my friend from Alabama, again, I so much appreciate his leadership on this issue. I am a proud supporter of the Jobs for Americans Act. I look forward to bipartisan support on that act because, again, we're not talking about asking anyone to compromise their principles. We're asking people to celebrate that we are an immigrant nation and that we are a nation of laws. And I tell you, I don't want to live in a nation that is willing to give up on either one of those, and we don't have to.

I thank my friend.

Mr. BROOKS. Madam Speaker, I want to express my thanks for the eloquence of Congressmen ROB WOODALL of Georgia, DIANE BLACK of Tennessee, and ROBERT ADERHOLT of the State of Alabama.

I pray that the American people and Washington, D.C., will be mindful of the loss of Tad Mattle, the suffering of his family, and the sufferings of hundreds, if not thousands, of other Americans under similar, yet difficult, circumstances, all brought about because our Federal Government is derelict in its duty to protect American citizens from the conduct of illegal aliens.

With that, Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to discuss employment, or lack of employment here in the United States.

We just listened to a discussion about the problem, and certainly immigration is a piece of the problem. But in the whole totality of the extraordinary unemployment in the United States, it is but one piece. The solutions to the crisis that faces America and Americans is way beyond just the immigration policy.

I would hope that my colleagues from the Republican side would work towards a comprehensive immigration reform program, one that certainly will deal with the border and security on the border, although I think much of what was said earlier is overblown.

And dealing with deportations, I would point out that the current Obama administration has deported more people in the last year than in the entire 8 years of the Bush administration.

Much needs to be done. A comprehensive immigration policy needs to be put in place. But if it were in place today, the unemployment in this Nation would not be solved by that alone.

There is a solution that's at hand. There's an opportunity for this Congress to act immediately to bring back

American jobs, to put Americans back to work. It's the American Jobs Act.

A week ago, a little more than a week ago now, the President stood before a joint session of Congress here in this Chamber filled with Democrats, Republicans, Senators and Members of Congress, and he presented to us a comprehensive program to put Americans back to work. I want to discuss that tonight and also pick up the issue that he raised yesterday about how we do that, how we put Americans back to work and, in the next several years, bring the deficit under control and put America's financing back in shape.

It's the American Jobs Act, a very comprehensive proposal, a very bold proposal, and one that would actually, not by his estimate but by the estimate of independent economists, employ some 1½ to 2 million Americans immediately. And I'd like to tell you how that might come about if this House were to pass the legislation.

□ 2010

We know that for America to succeed both in the short term and the long term, it's not only about going back to work, it's also about critical investments.

Over the weekend, back in my district in California, the East Bay area of San Francisco Bay and up into the Central Valley, I had the opportunity to talk to teachers, teachers who were very concerned that given the financial situation in California, that they were going to be laid off, and generally it's the new, the young teacher that has only been there a little while that's given the pink slip and sent on down the road.

This is a personal issue in my family. My daughter and son-in-law are teachers, and their class size has already grown from 20, 21 to 34, 35 in the second-grade class. A very difficult teaching situation. Yet, more layoffs are likely to occur.

One of the fundamental investments that needs to be made in any society that wants to grow, that wants to prosper, that wants to have social justice is the education of the young, and in the case of the United States, with the extraordinary number of unemployed, some 12 million to 14 million, and underemployed, perhaps another 10 million, it's the reeducation of those that have already been in the workforce. So a key investment is education. In the American Jobs Act, the President has proposed a very strong, vibrant, and necessary program to keep teachers in the classroom and to bring teachers back into the classroom. He's proposed that we fund 280,000 teaching positions across this Nation. Now, that's a huge number of teachers, many of whom have already been laid off and did not arrive for this fall school year. We can put them back into a classroom as soon as this Congress and the Senate passes the American Jobs Act. It's about \$30 billion, \$35 billion to do this.

Is it money well spent? Well, if you want to consider investments in the

most critical of all the things that a Nation does, it's the education of their children. This is an enormous and the important factor in building the future of America and simultaneously putting people back to work.

When these teachers go back to work, that cycles money into the community. So the grocery store, the arts store, programs that require books and pamphlets and so forth, all of those things will begin to be circulating in our community.

So this is one of the key programs that the President has proposed, the American Jobs Act—fixing our schools, putting teachers back to work. And that is a critical investment.

If I might just put up another way of describing this.

If you really care about America, and you want to have a better America, then we simply have to invest in America. There are numerous ways we can do it. We talked about the education programs, and that's certainly one.

This is another one here that relates to education. I don't know if you can see this, but that's a young technician in a laboratory, perhaps in a hospital or quite possibly in a program, a new business like I saw in Davis, California. It's a biotechnology firm that actually produces herbicides and pesticides that are taken out—well, first discovered in the environment. These may be bugs, these are a fungus, these are bacteria that exist naturally in our environment that in one way or another kill bugs or kill unwanted plants.

So they're discovering these, they are then understanding the chemical, the biological nature of it, and then mass producing these biological pesticides and herbicides.

Two things they need. They will eventually go out with an IPO so they'll need capital, and that's another piece of what the President is proposing. But they also need technicians in the laboratory. In going through this particular lab, I said, How is your employment? The owner of it said, Well, we're at 90 employees now. We're 2 years, 3 years old, and we need to grow, but I can't find the technicians.

In the President's program there is a specific reeducation program that's available for young men and older men and women that want to learn a new technology, a new trade, and that's the technicians here, so that they can fill those four immediate openings that exist in Davis, California, for lab technicians.

Similarly, the community colleges will be able to receive the Pell Grants and the grants and loans for the first time ever to provide money so that these people can go to work.

There is yet one other program, and we'll get to the construction here in a little while as we go through this.

One of the key aspects of the President's jobs program is the fact that we have about 3 million, almost 4 million men and women who have served in the Iraq and Afghanistan theaters. Many of

those are still there but most have come home.

When they leave the military, they have one of the highest unemployment rates of any group in the United States. This is simply wrong. These are men and women that have served this Nation heroically and in considerable danger, and in many, many cases having suffered grievous injuries.

We need to pay special attention to them and recognize that they have acquired some very, very important skills. They know how to work, they know how to show up on time. They know how to take instructions. What they don't know is how to be a lab technician, and they don't know that there are job opportunities out there.

So the President has proposed a special program to encourage American employers, for example the biotech firm that I discussed earlier, to reach out to veterans. There is a \$5,600 tax credit. This is not a deduction. This is right-off-the-bottom-line taxes, \$5,600 for any company that has less than \$50 million of payroll to hire a veteran returning from the wars. It's incredibly important and the right thing for America to do.

The other thing, and this is even, I think, more—well, just as important and perhaps more important. This \$9,600 tax credit—again, this is a reduction in an employer's taxes of \$9,600 for each wounded veteran, disabled veteran that has returned from the wars. We only need to look at the photos that are too often in our newspapers about post-traumatic stress syndrome, about the men and women who have suffered grievous injuries of one sort or another. But if an employer is willing to reach out, they will be able to receive a \$9,600 tax credit for those wounded warriors.

These are America's heroes. These are the men and women who should be first in our thoughts and first in line.

This can be combined with the educational programs that I discussed earlier so that as these veterans come back, they have the opportunity to learn a new skill, perhaps as a lab technician, and carry on and work through with a good career ahead of them that has enormous upside potential.

□ 2020

Once you're in these high-tech businesses and the laboratory is there, the opportunity to go on and get additional education and additional pay and benefits is clearly before you.

So this is one of the other aspects of the American Jobs Act. It's good for employers. They need an employee they can deduct off their taxes. It's \$5,600 by hiring a veteran or \$9,600 for hiring a disabled veteran. It's a very good, a very, very solid program in the American Jobs Act.

It doesn't stop there. Let me bring up one other item that I think we should really be focusing on.

I said earlier I'd come back to this issue of the construction worker over

here. The unemployment in construction is probably well over 30 percent. In some parts—and I know this is in California—it's in the range of 50 percent. So the men and women who are in the construction industry have suffered enormous unemployment, in part because of the housing market, in part because of the cutback in State and local government expenditures.

But in the President's American Jobs Act, there is a critical investment for this Nation, and that is the investment in the infrastructure. A big word. Most of us now know it. Infrastructure are roads, airports, water systems, sanitation systems, and even the modern communication systems, not of telecommuting, but of various kinds of microwave systems and other fiber optic systems. All of those are modern infrastructure.

Now, across America, we have allowed our infrastructure to deteriorate. Our bridges are in bad shape. More than 60 percent of the bridges in America need to be repaired and made stronger. There are earthquake standards that are not met. Virginia wasn't thinking too much about those until about a month ago, and then suddenly Virginia began to think about earthquake standards. I will tell you that this building—this Capitol—was built a century or more ago, and they weren't thinking about earthquakes at that time.

All across this Nation, the infrastructure needs to be modernized; it needs to be brought back up to speed. So the President has proposed a \$50 billion sum of money immediately available for the infrastructure of the Nation—bridges, roads, airports, the infrastructure of the modern communication systems. All of that is immediately available and, in addition to that, a very innovative—and I think a very important—idea called an “infrastructure bank.”

An infrastructure bank has been talked about for a long time. Europe has had one for more than two decades. What it is is an initial investment by the government and then an additional investment by public pension funds, by individuals. That infrastructure bank operates just as a commercial bank does. It's not a bunch of pork barrel projects by me or any of my colleagues but, rather, projects that are brought that are cash flow. They are able to repay the loans, repay the loan guarantees, and perhaps, depending upon the structure of the proposal, are able to get a grant of some sort. That could turn into another \$50 billion very, very quickly.

I know that, out in California, CalPERS—the big public pension fund—has already said they're going to commit \$800 million to infrastructure in the State of California. With an infrastructure bank in place, such as the President has proposed, they may put in \$2 billion, \$3 billion, \$4 billion. They certainly have the money.

Now, in this House, my colleague from Connecticut, ROSA DELAURIO, has

pushed the infrastructure bank for several years, but has gotten no traction from our Republican friends. At the same time, several Republicans have signed onto that infrastructure bill, so it is bipartisan and bicameral, as the Senate has a similar bill on that side.

This is something we can do immediately. This is not new science. This is not a new program. It's a program that has been around a long time, that is not yet in law but that has been fully vetted; and it can happen very quickly as soon as the American Jobs Act is passed. If that happens, we'll be looking at at least \$50 billion for infrastructure projects and quite possibly much more than that if the infrastructure bank comes along.

Let me take up one other aspect of this program. There is not a community in America that has all of its public schools as neat, as well painted and as well conditioned as a community would want. In fact, in many of our communities, our schools are an embarrassment. They're rundown. The paint is chipping off the walls. The playgrounds are in disarray. The toilets don't work. The lab is a 1950 laboratory. There are no Internet communications within the school.

The President has proposed about a \$25 billion to \$30 billion program to renovate America's schools, to take those schools that are rundown whether they are in rural areas or in urban areas. Schools that are rundown, schools that are in need of rehabilitation, remodeling and upgrading would be in line, and it's calculated that there are 35,000 schools that could benefit from this program.

Now, who's going to do the work? These are new jobs—these are new job opportunities—and much of this work is not of a very high skill but, rather, of a skill that could be met by many of the unemployed. So this is cleanup. It's painting. It's the other kinds of work that may not require the highest of skill levels, but that is one of the additional programs that's available and is a key infrastructure program. So, as we go through these various elements that the President has proposed in the American Jobs Act, we will find the opportunity to put Americans back to work.

I notice that my colleague from New York has joined us; and we'll begin, once again, the east coast/west coast.

Earlier on, I talked about the education program. I talked about the veterans programs that the President has proposed, and I'd gotten into the infrastructure. We have yet to hit the unemployment and some other areas, but take us wherever you want, Congressman PAUL TONKO from the State of New York, the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. We haven't talked about Making It in America yet, which is one of your favorite themes. So please, Mr. TONKO, share with us your thoughts.

Mr. TONKO. Absolutely.

Representative GARAMENDI, thank you. Thank you for leading us again in

another very thoughtful hour of discussion about the importance of deciphering the facts out there that will springboard the comeback—the economic recovery—of this Nation, and it must be done with the deepest and most profound sense of academics. The American public is counting on Congress working with the President to make jobs more abundant in our society.

You talked about skills and the development of skills. Recently, during our district work period, I traveled to Schoharie County in my district and saw the benefits of the investment of automation in manufacturing. I was reminded by Wynn Kintz of Kintz Plastics that it's important for us to develop the skills that are required today in manufacturing. He's involved with a CAT center—a center for advanced technology—in the Capital Region. He works with RPI and other institutions. He works with the private sector community in that compact that really puts together the vision and the need, the compact that expresses the need for manufacturing.

Now, there are those who would suggest that manufacturing is dead, that we've seen our heyday, that it's over, that it's history. Well, when you talk to America's manufacturers, they will tell you that they need to develop the human infrastructure, that they need today's skills to meet today's competition. They will tell you about doing it smarter so as to be that sharpest competitor on the global scene, and they will talk about innovation.

Just how does innovation happen?

It's taking ideas and moving them along, investing in R&D, building a prototype, developing that impact in manufacturing, and making certain that we are at the cutting edge, that we're investing with America's brainpower—its know-how—that we're pulling together the intellectual capacity and making it work; but when we introduce innovation, we need people with the skill set to run these automated mechanisms in the manufacturing line.

□ 2030

So it is absolutely essential, it's so vitally important to develop the skill set, the know-how in order to put people to work and make us competitive. It's happening as we speak.

Mr. Kintz advised me that across this country, from my end of the country to your end, Representative GARAMENDI, we need skilled labor of the newest kind.

I can tell you, there are many people who have been displaced from the workforce through no fault of their own. Their job may have been shipped offshore. They have a high work ethic, they have tremendous skill, but now it needs to be honed into present-day application, training, retraining, enabling us to advance innovation, advance manufacturing. These are important aspects to the work that needs to be done.

In the Make It In America efforts where we enable people to dream the American Dream, where we cultivate that climate where you can tether to the American Dream, we can introduce the source of policies that it takes to advance Make It In America.

The President has done that with his American Jobs Act. We, as Democrats in the House of Representatives, have made it our mantra over and over again stating "make it in America," and that takes on tremendous meaning. It takes on a variation of meanings. You can make it in America, produce it in America. You can make it in America. You can survive and grow economically in America.

There's all sorts of making it in America themes that are interpreted through that statement. And it does incorporate sound trade policy. It incorporates an investment through incentives that provide the tax initiatives that will enable people to be strong. It takes that energy core ingredient, gives us the opportunities to be innovative in the energy costs, which could shave a tremendous amount of price off the final product: labor, investing in the human infrastructure, education from pre-K, from pre-K all the way to advanced degrees.

We need to invest in education, higher education and research. Without cultivating ideas, without inspiring that sort of genius that comes up with very clever concepts, we are nowhere as a society.

Finally, the infrastructure, putting together the sorts of efforts that will enable us here at home to ship our products, to have the infrastructure not only of the ordinary, traditional type, but to invest in broadband so that communications could be state-of-the-art, so that we invest in a grid system that enables us to reach through the arteries and veins of the network, the transmission and distribution network, making certain it's state-of-the-art.

We saw what happened, did we not, in August of 2003 when a failure in Ohio put out the lights on Broadway in New York City and impacted my district in upstate New York for weeks upon weeks.

These are the factors, these are the motivating disciplines within our efforts to enable us to boldly say that's a Make It In America initiative. We're going to make it happen. We're working really hard. We're proud of the efforts made by the White House. It's a plan. It's a vision, laser sharp in its focus, on putting people back to work, restoring the dignity of work.

We've talked about it, gathering around the table, the dinner table at home. It's so very valuable when we can talk about having people bring home that paycheck. People have been denied that opportunity in far too many homes—14 million Americans, unemployed. They ought not wait 14 months for Congress to work with this President to get something done.

I'm just happy to join you on the floor of the House of Representatives and thank you for the leadership that you exert on this issue.

Mr. GARAMENDI. You also, Mr. TONKO. You have been here night after night with the same theme, the Make It In America theme. You went through these so very, very well, a trade policy that really positions America to once again be the manufacturer for the world.

Tax policy, we've done a lot on tax policy already. Let me just mention two things. One we did last year. Unfortunately, none of our Republican colleagues were with us on that, but at that time the Democrats had the majority. We eliminated about \$12 billion of tax breaks that American corporations received. Our tax money was given to those American corporations for shipping jobs offshore. What? You mean they got a subsidy for shipping jobs offshore? They did. We ended it. So those are the kinds of tax policies we're talking about.

Now the President has proposed a continuation of another tax policy that we put in place last year. He wants to continue it as part of the American Jobs Act, and that is to give a business the opportunity to expense in 1 year, in 1 year, the cost of capital equipment so that it's not depreciated over 7 years. That's an enormous advantage for a business to make the capital investment.

Now, there is one thing that I would add to that. The President said it, but it wasn't specific to this, and that is that that capital equipment, that that lathe, that that welding machine, that that saw, whatever it happens to be, or the cultivator, the tractor out in farm areas, that that be an American-made piece of equipment, that the equipment be made in America. Because, once again, we're using our tax money to subsidize the capital equipment when I want my tax money to be used for American-made equipment.

And, in fact, guess what? I've got a piece of legislation—I got so excited, you will have to forgive me, but I have a piece of legislation that does just that. It couples up with what the President's been talking about. He talked about American made, that we buy American. Well, H.R. 637 says for that construction, for that infrastructure, airports, highway, high-speed rail, trains, et cetera, that they are made in America. These are opportunities for all parts of America, and it works. It works.

Mr. TONKO. Let me share a perspective with you, Representative GARAMENDI. And I know we've talked about this, but we'll share it for the sake of those viewing the discussion this evening on the House floor.

My district has been severely impacted by the ravages of the waters of Irene and then with the one-two punch, if you will, when the Tropical Storm Lee wreaked devastating damage upon the upstate New York area, certainly

in Pennsylvania and in Massachusetts, in Vermont, in Connecticut, to name a few, and then even into the Southeast with the Carolinas.

But if ever you wanted to see a snapshot of change from just hours' worth, people were disconnected from their neighborhood, farmers who had to pour milk into the waters, the ravaging waters, because they had no connection to the outside world, roads wiped away by the force of water, bridges discontinued, rail systems knocked out, rail stopped until they could reconstruct that rail line. That pointed out with such significant measure, in such significant measure, in very bold terms, the value of infrastructure.

This screeching halt to a regional economy came about through the forces of Mother Nature, and it just brought into clear vision for me just what this infrastructure debate is and how folks can ignore the value of infrastructure on this House floor and want to do political games on an idea that really talks about shipping freight across this country, shipping the essential materials for our manufacturing lines across this country. Infrastructure is that major artery. It's the lifeblood flow into our communities that enables the economic comeback to truly be that noble, bold approach, infrastructure, and to put together in the American Jobs Act an infrastructure bank bill that allows us to place \$10 billion that will leverage, we believe, \$100 billion that then enables all sorts of constructs to occur and puts together a working plan for America's skilled labor. It is a powerful expression of job creation, job retention.

It's what really is the pulse of America. It is that heartbeat of activity to our roads and bridges and rail system and airports that really tells the true story.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We can rebuild America, and we're certainly going to have to rebuild your part of America. You and your constituents in upper New York and in Vermont were devastated by Hurricane Irene, floods that had not been seen, perhaps, in the entire modern history of those areas. So that needs to be rebuilt.

But you are quite correct about the rest of the Nation. San Francisco Bay Bridge went down in the 1989 earthquake, the Loma Prieta earthquake, and devastated the economy of San Francisco. Freeways collapsed.

So we know that we need to build to a higher standard and we know we need to repair. These are American jobs that are readily available today. And when we couple it with the American-produced cement and steel and equipment that's American made, we will generate a new resurgence of America's manufacturing industry. It can be done. All we need is a vote of this House. All we need is a vote on the President's American Jobs Act.

□ 2040

It's all there. The Buy America, Make It in America is there. The con-

struction jobs are there; the education is there; 1.5 million to 2 million Americans going back to work the day or shortly after the President signs that legislation. This is really an opportunity. And to sit here and to waste time, it just seems to me to be a tragedy.

We need help in Vermont. We need help in New York. Your people do. They have been devastated. And yet that bill hasn't even passed this House to provide the money for it. We have to do it. It's up to us. This is our task.

Mr. TONKO. It is. I think it highlights exactly the concern that many of us have in terms of the response to what is—what has pretty much rendered some areas of our country to be acknowledged almost as a war-torn area where craters have been created by the force of water, where roads are no longer in play, where businesses have been shut down, where homes have been lost totally to the waters, to the rivers that flow in their communities. And when you look at that devastation, you would think that the first thing we would do is respond in earnest and quickly and with a depth of acknowledgment that appropriates resources to get things going again.

Well, our farmers need assistance, and they're not getting it through the response here with the concurrent resolution. It's a trade almost that we are asked to make about offsets that we can find. These are people that are looking for their children's school clothes in the rubble. They're searching for pictures of grandparents to have something to cling to in the aftermath of that devastation.

They are wondering if they will ever open their business again, and we're not responding fully. We're looking for ways to cut so as to slide dollars over. Are you going to cut that youngster who now has no home? Are you going to cut her education? Are you going to cut his health care? Are you going to disavow any need for public safety?

These are the efforts, these are the challenges that when America reviews the process, it gets cynical, and I understand the cynicism. There's a lot of concern about stepping up to the plate and showcasing for America what effective government is all about. This is what my district is looking for right now. And when they hear about this expression of offsets, I know people in my district, I have known them for years, they are like extended family after 3½ decades of representing them at some level of government.

And I know their philosophy may not be my political philosophy, but they are angered about the talk of offsets, as they have to look for new homes and look for shelter and for food and clothing. They are angry to hear about this offset. They are angry to hear about the total disavowing of aid assistance when now they have to rebuild their fields, clear it of debris, and re-create the watershed areas that they need. These are urgent measures, and they

are not going to be tolerating any sort of political gamesmanship.

Mr. GARAMENDI. If I might just add, I was the insurance commissioner in California twice, first in the early 1990s, and then again from 2003 to 2007 or 2008. During that period of time, we had many emergencies in California. We had fires and earthquakes, and always we could count on the Federal Government immediately providing assistance. Sometimes fast, tens of millions, hundreds of millions, of dollars made available immediately to rebuild. And it was never, never a question of having to take money away from an existing program so that aid could be brought to California.

When the hurricane went through New Orleans, nobody said, well, we're going to take care of New Orleans and we're going to cut education or we're going to cut research. They simply put the money together during the Republican, the Bush period, to rebuild New Orleans. And that was a multi-billion-dollar project.

Now here we are with these disasters in the Northeast. And our Republicans are demanding an offset, that is, in order to provide money to rebuild the Northeast, we're going to have to cut out the research for advanced auto technology. This is the future of the American auto industry. This is how to build a better electric motor for a car, a better battery so that we can make those things in America rather than importing them from China or Korea or Japan.

The opportunity for America's auto industry to advance with more fuel-efficient cars, all of that will be pushed aside for the first time in anybody's memory here. And some people have been here 50 years. Never before was an offset required, particularly one that would harm the future of the American automobile industry.

So we are going, This doesn't make any sense. Let the compassion and the generosity of America express itself, as it has done so many, many times. And simply say, okay, we are going to appropriate the money. We'll dig deeper. We'll appropriate the money. We'll rebuild. And in rebuilding, much of it will be made in America.

Mr. TONKO. I think if I might, Representative GARAMENDI, that's where I can acknowledge that my district regardless of political persuasion, regardless of philosophy, people have been impacted by those statements. They are just trying to process that sort of thinking that would just call to a grinding halt any response that is going to be sufficient simply because it is ruled by some sort of new restrictive qualities.

Well, these are people in pain. These are people who are hurting through no fault of their own. They have been impacted by the forces of Mother Nature. We have seen it, as you have rightfully said, from coast to coast. There have been tragedies out there and disasters and challenges galore through the ages

of our history. And we have always responded in that American pioneer sort of way, to be there, roll in the assistance and take care of it. When one amongst us is hurt, everyone feels the pain.

So this is really tragic, and it then challenges our bigger picture here. If we can't be responsive in moments like that, how do you convince some in the House that the urgency to invest in an innovation economy, to invest in a global race on clean energy and innovation, how do you encourage them to understand the urgency for that moment, because if we are just living for the moment and not looking forward, if we don't have the vision as is suggested, we shall perish. That is just what we need right now.

We won the global race on space because with passionate resolve we determined that we were going to land the person on the Moon before any other nation; and we did it. We unleashed untold levels of technology that impacted every sector of the economy and every dynamic that defines our quality of life. From health care to communication to energy generation to education and beyond, all of that was impacted by the pioneer spirit of the global race on space.

We are at that same sort of defining moment. Are we going to shine? Is this going to be a shining moment for America? Are we going to allow the challenge to pass us by? Is that American in spirit? I would suggest not.

The moment today requires the sort of belief in our Nation's ability, and the leadership that should be expressed in the Halls of government here in Washington is silenced by that sort of thinking. And so we can, we must, we need to go forward with the soundness of investment in an innovation economy. When we talk about growing jobs and investing in the American worker, think of it, the linchpin to energy independence, battery manufacturing, advanced battery manufacturing.

□ 2050

I see it happening in my district. But it started with R&D. It starts with an investment of ideas, moving them along and building the prototype.

You mentioned earlier that my district was the host territory to the Industrial Revolution. That didn't just happen. There were people with boldness that said, let's create a port called New York City, and let it connect the great ocean to the Great Lakes. Because of my location, my geography, upstate New York became that link to a great ocean, to the Great Lakes. It inspired the birth of a necklace of communities called mill towns that then rose to be the epicenters of invention and innovation. That pioneer spirit is alive today in my State, in your State, and in the 48 other States. We should be proud of that. We should nurture it. We should make certain that it speaks forcefully to job creation. That's the plan of the President's American Jobs

Act, and it's the vision of Make It in America that you and I so often speak to during these Special Orders on the House floor.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We can. Yes, we can. We can rebuild America. We really can do it. You gave a wonderful example of the way in which the great Industrial Revolution in this country took place, government doing its piece and the private sector doing that piece, government setting the stage with infrastructure and then the private sector coming along building the mill towns, building the factories, and the government aiding in the research all along the way.

There's a very interesting story about the telegraph. It would not have happened had not that idea been brought to the Congress and then the Congress funding the initial implementation of the telegraph. So we've seen over the history of America the role of government. The President has laid out in the American Jobs Act a very powerful message about the role of government, together with the free enterprise entrepreneurial system, building once again the America that we want.

We have maybe another 15 minutes, I think, here, and I want to take this to another part of what the President talked about yesterday. There are two Americas. We are two very different Americas. There is the very wealthy America, and then there is the rest of America. I put this up because I was listening, as I was traveling to one of my meetings in the district over the weekend, to a radio talk show. It was KGO radio in San Francisco. They had a talk show on in support of food banks. They were taking the entire day and assisting in raising money. This is one of the most-listened-to stations on the entire West Coast. They go from Vancouver all the way down to San Diego with their radio signal, and it was a whole day dedicated to food banks and raising money for food banks.

The story line was very simple. Food banks are being inundated by men and women that can no longer buy food. They are unemployed. They are simply to a point where they cannot any longer. The stories were heart-wrenching. Men and women, families that had worked their entire life, that had always been able to come home with food and a paycheck and been able to pay the rent or pay the mortgage had lost their job, and they didn't know what to do. They were embarrassed to go to the food bank. They thought it was begging. That's not the case.

Nonetheless, the stories tore me apart and caused me to come back and find out about child poverty in this Nation, the richest nation in the world. No other nation, no matter what you think of China, no matter what you think about India and how they have grown or any part of the European Union, no other nation in the world has the wealth of America, and no other industrialized country in the world has

the same extraordinary child poverty. What are we? What are we in America if we don't care for our children?

Look at this. Nearly 25 percent, some were 23, 24 percent, one in four children in this Nation live in poverty, and they're hungry. They are hungry. This has to be addressed. The President's jobs program puts men and women back to work so that they can care for their children.

There is another story behind this, and that is that the rate of poverty in America is the highest it has been since 1962, during the Kennedy period. In the Johnson period, 1963, '64, '65, America started a war on poverty, and the poverty rate in this Nation fell precipitously. Senior poverty with Medicare and Medicaid; men and women in their senior years were taken out of poverty because they could afford health care. They had health care available to them. And other programs were institutionalized. Here we are, 40-some years later, the highest incident of poverty in America since prior to the war on poverty in the 1960s. We have to address this.

Mr. TONKO. Representative GARAMENDI, it is often said that a nation can be measured by the work it does for those in the dawn of life, and the quality of life for those children living in poverty understandably is reduced. And so the challenge to all of us in this country, what ought to move that moral compass of America, is the reflection on that statement that you just made.

If we're content with that statistic, if we're content with the direction in which that statistic is moving, then it is a puzzling statement. It ought to haunt us as a society. And as we weaken and as we grow more and more into the ranks of poverty, the entire Nation, all income strata, are challenged by that. We are all weakened by that statistic because as we empower each and every American, we, as a nation, collectively grow stronger. The impact is not only just living in poverty, it is more incidents of disease, risks to health care and poorer education. We need to strengthen the homes. You don't do it with policies that obviously have created this growing divide. That gap is growing between the comfortable and uncomfortable, and it's why there has to be this revisitation, if you will, of tax policy.

Now there are those who say, well, if you adjust this, it's class warfare. It's not class warfare. If everything were at its even level and you adjusted it, you could call it class warfare. This is an exercise in justice, social and economic justice. And it also can be argued that if we had those higher tax rates and we had a series of years of economic growth in the Clinton years, then how do you rationalize the tax rates having been higher back then? It certainly could be argued that it didn't ward off economic growth, economic strengthening of our Nation.

So there is a call here, a clarion call, a wake-up call to visit policy that will

undo this social and economic injustice. It hurts all of us, and it can't continue. I know that in the stats that you shared there is another one, another statistic that is troublesome. We have now dropped below \$50,000 as the median household income. I believe we are in the range of \$48,000 to \$49,000, maybe perhaps just slightly more than \$49,000. That is troublesome. As that median continues to dip, that is a hurtful acknowledgment that there are failed policies out there that need to be turned around.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Let me put a couple of more facts on the table and then let's talk about the policy changes that can redirect that. This is the last 40 years, 1979 to 2006, prior to the Great Recession. During that period of time, there was a shift of wealth and of income, wealth and of income, from the middle class and the low-income to the very wealthy. This lays it out. Again, this is prior to the Great Recession. If we look at it in the Great Recession, these statistics are even more startling.

□ 2100

For the low end, the poorest, 11 percent growth. And then you move up to the second group, 18 percent, 21 percent, 32 percent. For the top percentage, the top 20 percent, a 256 increase in income and wealth.

Looking at the statistics, a wage earner in a factory versus the CEO, it used to be 1 to 40, now it's 1 to 300. We've seen an enormous shift in wealth from the working middle class families to the very, very wealthy. If you overlay this with the 2007, 2008, 2009, and where we are today in 2011, it would be even more startling because now these are running negative, as you said just a moment ago. For the middle class, that's here and down, not the top 20 percent, but down here, this is the top 1 percent.

Mr. TONKO. So pre-recession, we were 32 percent at the best, anywhere from 11 percent to 32 percent growth, versus 256 percent growth for that top 1 percent perched at the top of the economic ladder, the income strata.

Mr. GARAMENDI. We use Donald Trump as the example here, but there are probably 400 to 500,000 that fall into this category; extraordinary wealth.

Now, we've been talking all night about the American Jobs Act, so I'm going to put this back up for us to ponder for a moment: the American Jobs Act. Total cost of the American Jobs Act: \$450 million. The President yesterday said it can be paid for, and he laid out a way to pay for it and, simultaneously, over the next decade, bring down the American deficit—solve the deficit and pay for the Jobs Act. And he said that there are three ways to do it:

First, those who have much must participate. They must share in bringing America back. So he has suggested that the highest income, that 1 percent, those who make over \$1 million,

that they participate, that they no longer would be able to have a tax rate lower than their assistants. That's the Buffett Rule. That's a big piece of it, about \$800 billion over the next decade.

He also said that corporations that pay no income tax today—corporations like General Motors, corporations like Verizon, some of America's biggest corporations pay zero income tax. Last year, General Electric paid zero and got about \$5 billion back in rebates. Something is seriously wrong, the President says. That cannot happen anymore. Everybody has to participate.

He also said that other tax breaks for the oil companies should end. So putting together these tax increases on those who have much, the super-wealthy in America, the hedge fund manager that pays 15 percent on his income where you and I and others may pay 30 percent, something's wrong here. So that's what he is recommending.

We need to move very vigorously forward on the American Jobs Act, put people back to work, and simultaneously solve the overall budget deficit by not only new taxes, but also with additional cuts. That's the President's proposal.

Mr. TONKO. I would add to that that the jobs piece is so significant. Because we can talk about tax reform, but unless you have a job and an income, then it renders itself somewhat meaningless.

I would also add, Representative GARAMENDI, the concern that as more and more pressure has befallen the 50 States, we've seen cuts to programs and resources. These services don't go away, and so the payment comes down to the local level with property tax payments that are now snuffing out the American Dream for America's working families, for the middle class. So not only is the tax policy suffocating for middle class Americans, but the counter effect of property taxes growing in order to continue services means that more and more pressure—income tax, property tax pressure, school tax pressure—is befalling the middle class. When people want to walk away from this agenda to make progressive reforms to tax policy, it scares me because this is our moment, our tipping point to turn things around.

I know that you want to close. I thank you for the outstanding leadership in bringing us together, Representative GARAMENDI. It is always a pleasure to join with you. We will continue to forcefully speak to the reforms we need.

Mr. GARAMENDI. The East-West show will continue, and the Make It in America agenda will be the American agenda because Americans want to make things in this country. They want to rebuild the manufacturing industry. The President has given us a way to do that with the American Jobs Act. Trade policy, tax policy, energy, labor, Make It in America. Make the jobs in America. Rebuild America's

manufacturing base. Rebuild the American middle class. We will do it. And if we pass the American Jobs Act, it can happen very quickly.

I yield back the balance of my time.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2608, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

Mr. WOODALL (during the Special Order of Mr. GARAMENDI), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-212) on the resolution (H. Res. 405) providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 2608) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2401, TRANSPARENCY IN REGULATORY ANALYSIS OF IMPACTS ON THE NATION ACT OF 2011

Mr. WOODALL (during the Special Order of Mr. GARAMENDI), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 112-213) on the resolution (H. Res. 406) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of a death in the family.

Ms. BUERKLE (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today on account of official business.

Mr. REICHERT (at the request of Mr. CANTOR) for today and the remainder of the week on account of illness.

Mr. BACA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

A BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on September 12, 2011 she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1249. To amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, September 21, 2011, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3135. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a budget request for disaster response needs through Fiscal Year (FY) 2012; (H. Doc. No. 112—56); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

3136. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's quarterly report entitled, "Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects, and activities; Defense Cooperation Account", for the period ending June 30, 2011; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3137. A letter from the Principal Deputy, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Rear Admiral (lower half) David G. Simpson, United States Navy, to wear the authorized insignia of the grade of rear admiral; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3138. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement; Contractors Performing Private Security Functions (DFARS Case 2011-D023) (RIN: 0750-AH28) received August 9, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3139. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulations Supplement; Nonavailability Exception for Procurement of Hand or Measuring Tools (DFARS Case 2011-D025) (RIN: 0750-AH17) received August 11, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3140. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, LRA, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Office of Thrift Supervision Integration Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (RIN: 1557-AD47) received August 9, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3141. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to Chile pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3142. A letter from the Chairman and President, Export-Import Bank, transmitting a report on transactions involving U.S. exports to India pursuant to Section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, as amended; to the Committee on Financial Services.

3143. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting the annual report under the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for FY 2008 and 2009, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3144. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Group Health Plans and Health Insurance Issuers Relating to Coverage of Preventive Services Under the

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (RIN: 1210-AB44) received August 12, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3145. A letter from the Deputy Director for Policy, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Paying Benefits received August 10, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3146. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Efficiency Design Standards for New Federal Commercial and Multi-Family High-Rise Residential Buildings and New Federal Low-Rise Residential Buildings [Docket No.: EERE-2011-BT-STD-0005] (RIN: 1904-AC41) received August 6, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3147. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting report to Congress on the Backlog of Postmarketing Requirements (PMRs) and Postmarketing Commitments (PMCs) for 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3148. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations, (Gearhart, Madras, Manzanita, and Seaside, Oregon) Station KNRQ-FM, to Change Community of License from Tualatin to Aloha, Oregon [MB Docket No.: 10-118] (RM-11603) (RM-11631) (File No. BMPH-20100805AKO) received August 9, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3149. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Eau Claire, Wisconsin) [MB Docket No.: 11-100] (RM-11632) received August 9, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3150. A letter from the Deputy Chief, CGB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program [CG Docket No.: 10-51] received August 9, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3151. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Guidance for the Assessment of Beyond-Design-Basis Aircraft Impacts (Regulatory Guide 1.217) received August 10, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3152. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting report prepared by the Department of State concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3153. A letter from the Chairman, Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, transmitting a letter wishing peace and prosperity for the United States on Independence Day; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

3154. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting in accordance with Pub. L. 105-270, the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998

(FAIR Act), the Board's inventory of commercial activities for 2010; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3155. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's Annual No FEAR Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2010; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

3156. A letter from the Acting Chief, Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation, Department of Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities [Docket No.: FWS-R7-FHC-2010-0098] (RIN: 1018-AX32) received August 5, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3157. A letter from the Acting Chief — Endangered Species Branch of Listing, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Emergency Listing of the Miami Blue Butterfly as Endangered, and Emergency Listing of the Cassius Blue, Ceraunus Blue, and Nickerbean Blue Butterflies as Threatened Due to Similarity of Appearance to the Miami Blue Butterfly [Docket No.: FWS-R4-ES-2011-0043] (RIN: 1018-AX83) received August 5, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3158. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Status for the Largemouth Sawfish [Docket No.: 0906221082-0484-03] (RIN: 0648-XQ03) received July 25, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

3159. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Wage Methodology for the Temporary Non-Agricultural Employment H-2B Program; Amendment of Effective Date (RIN: 1205-AB61) received August 10, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

3160. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30793; Amtd. No. 3435] received August 5, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3161. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30792; Amtd. No. 3434] received August 5, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3162. A letter from the Senior Program Analyst, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — FIR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 30794; Amtd. No. 495] received August 30, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3163. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — NASA Implementation of Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Award Fee Language Revision (RIN: 2700-AD69) received August 10, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

3164. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Major System Acquisition; Earned Value Management (RIN: 2700-AD29) received August 10, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

3165. A letter from the Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Release of Information from Department of Veterans Affairs Records (RIN: 2900-AN72) received August 16, 2011, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WOODALL: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 405. Resolution providing for consideration of the Seante amendment to the bill (H.R. 2608) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes (Rept. 112-212). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 406. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2401) to require analyses of the cumulative and incremental impacts of certain rules and actions of the Environmental Protection Agency, and for other purposes (Rept. 112-213). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CUMMINGS (for himself and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 2967. A bill to enhance the long-term profitability of the United States Postal Service through enhanced innovation, operational flexibility, workforce realignment, and regulatory relief; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2968. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of President James Monroe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Mr. KIND, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HIMES, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. HURT, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. LANCE, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BOREN, Mr. STARK, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia):

H.R. 2969. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for extended months of Medicare coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant patients and other renal dialysis provisions; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BACA (for himself, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LEE, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. RUNYAN):

H.R. 2970. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of Alice Paul's role in the women's suffrage movement and in advancing equal rights for women; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 2971. A bill to amend titles 23, 45, and 49, United States Code, to encourage the use of private-public partnerships in transportation; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself and Mr. HIGGINS):

H.R. 2972. A bill to permanently reauthorize the EB-5 Regional Center Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MATHESON:

H.R. 2973. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to extend an exemption from certain requirements of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to protect public health and safety; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MOORE (for herself and Ms. LEE):

H.R. 2974. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require that not less than 10 percent of the amounts made available for certain high-speed rail projects be expended through small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 2975. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Battery Conservancy to construct and operate a performance facility at Castle Clinton National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.R. 2976. A bill to enhance public safety by making more spectrum available to public safety agencies, to facilitate the development of a wireless public safety broadband network, to provide standards for the spectrum needs of public safety agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT (for himself, Mr. HENSARLING, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER):

H.R. 2977. A bill to improve the circulation of \$1 coins, to remove barrier to the circulation of such coins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MULVANEY, Mr. LONG, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Georgia, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. ELLMERS, Mr. CANSECO, Mr. LANDRY, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. FLORES, Mr. FLEMING, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FARENTHOLD, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr.

BROOKS, Mrs. ROBY, Mr. PITTS, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. PAUL, and Mr. RIBBLE):

H.R. 2978. A bill to amend the National Labor Relations Act to modify the authority of the National Labor Relations Board with respect to rulemaking, issuance of complaints, and authority over unfair labor practices; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey):

H.R. 2979. A bill to defer mortgage payment due dates and to prohibit creditors from imposing late fees, increasing interest rates, or submitting adverse credit information with regard to the account of a mortgage holder whose principal residence has been severely impacted by a natural disaster for up to a 90-day period following issuance of a disaster declared by the Presidential for the area in which the mortgage holder's principal residence is located, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2980. A bill to limit reimbursement for excessive compensation of government contractors equal to the pay of Cabinet Secretaries; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BRADY of Texas:

H. Res. 403. A resolution honoring those persons whose lives have been taken by bacterial meningitis and those who continue to struggle with bacterial meningitis and its consequences, and supporting all work for the eradication of bacterial meningitis in the United States; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California:

H. Res. 404. A resolution recognizing the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are Latino; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BURTON of Indiana (for himself, Ms. DELAUNO, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. ISRAEL, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CLARKE of Michigan, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. BARLETTA, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. CHAFFETZ, Mr. REED, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. HOCHUL, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MOORE, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HINCHAY, and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H. Res. 407. A resolution expressing support for designation of September 2011 as National Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TOWNS, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN):

H. Res. 408. A resolution recognizing the impact of Mr. Hulbert James on politics, urban development, and New York City, and paying tribute to Mr. Hulbert for his lifetime of public service; to the Committee on Financial Services.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

130. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 7 commending its educators who teach about human rights and genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

131. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 11 urging the defeat of H.R. 1161; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

132. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire, relative to House Concurrent Resolution 9 urging the President and the Congress to immediately address the serious privacy, constitutional, safety, and religious freedom concerns presented by advanced imaging technology employed by the Transportation Security Agency; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

133. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 10 supporting the school-based health center program; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Education and the Workforce.

134. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Resolution No. 90 opposing the budget cuts proposed by the President and the Congress; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce.

135. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Resolution No. 27 urging the Congress to provide additional federal aid to the State of Hawaii for the provision of various state services to migrants from the Compact of Free Association nations; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce.

136. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Hawaii, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 53 urging the Congress to provide additional federal aid to the State of Hawaii for the provision of various state services to migrants from the Compact of Free Association nations; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce.

137. Also, a memorial of the Council of the City of District of Columbia, relative to Resolution 19-143 proposing a transfer of jurisdiction; jointly to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Natural Resources.

138. Also, a memorial of the Council of the City of District of Columbia, relative to proposing a transfer of jurisdiction; jointly to the Committees on Oversight and Government Reform and Natural Resources.

139. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution No. 12 requesting the enactment of the Federal Strengthening Medicare and Repaying Taxpayers Act of 2011; jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CUMMINGS:

H.R. 2967.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 2968.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States grants Congress the authority to coin money, regulate the value and fix the standard of weights and measures.

By Mr. BURGESS:

H.R. 2969.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The attached bill is constitutional under Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes" as well as Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: "The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mr. BACA:

H.R. 2970.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution—To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. HULTGREN:

H.R. 2971.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington:

H.R. 2972.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution, "the House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States." As described in Article 1, Section 1 "all legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress." I was elected in 2010 to serve in the 112th Congress as certified by the Secretary of State of Washington state.

Article III, Section 2 states that the Supreme Court has "the judicial power" that "shall extend to all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the laws of the United States." Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution provides that the Supreme Court is the supreme law of the land when stating "The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court."

The power of judicial review of the Supreme Court was upheld in *Marbury v Madison* in 1803, giving the Supreme Court the authority to strike down any law it deems unconstitutional. Members of Congress, having been elected and taken the oath of office, are given the authority to introduce legislation and only the Supreme Court, as established by the Constitution and precedent, can determine the Constitutionality of this authority.

By Mr. MATHESON:

H.R. 2973.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The 10th Amendment of the Constitution.

By Ms. MOORE:

H.R. 2974.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress' power under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. NADLER:

H.R. 2975.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clauses 1, 17, and 18.

By Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey:

H.R. 2976.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. SCHWEIKERT:

H.R. 2977.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, ("The Congress shall have Power To . . . coin money, regulate the value thereof, and of foreign coin, and fix the standard of weights and measures.")

By Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia:

H.R. 2978.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 2979.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority on which this bill is based is Congress's power under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. TONKO:

H.R. 2980.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1,

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 85: Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 100: Mr. NUGENT.

H.R. 178: Mr. LONG and Ms. EDWARDS.

H.R. 181: Mr. ROE of Tennessee.

H.R. 186: Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.

H.R. 218: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FALCOMA, and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 303: Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. BENISHEK, and Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.

H.R. 363: Mrs. DAVIS of California.

H.R. 370: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 371: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.

H.R. 402: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 466: Mr. LYNCH, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. COOPER, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 494: Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 512: Mr. SERRANO and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

H.R. 530: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 538: Mr. GOODLATTE.

H.R. 615: Mr. HUELSKAMP.

H.R. 640: Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 645: Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.
H.R. 683: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 733: Mr. JONES and Mr. BARTLETT.
H.R. 735: Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. McKEON, and Mr. RIVERA.
H.R. 760: Mr. CARDOZA and Mr. DENHAM.
H.R. 808: Mr. SERRANO.
H.R. 835: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 883: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
H.R. 891: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 895: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H.R. 959: Mr. RIVERA.
H.R. 1025: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 1041: Ms. TSONGAS.
H.R. 1042: Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mrs. BONO MACK, and Mr. DREIER.
H.R. 1063: Mr. COOPER.
H.R. 1084: Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 1085: Mr. HIGGINS.
H.R. 1106: Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.
H.R. 1167: Mr. CANSECO.
H.R. 1179: Mr. AKIN, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.
H.R. 1195: Mr. LOBIONDO.
H.R. 1206: Mr. DUFFY, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 1235: Mr. ROSS of Florida.
H.R. 1259: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 1322: Mr. KUCINICH and Mr. TOWNS.
H.R. 1332: Mr. DEFazio, Mr. ALTMIRE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. CHABOT, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 1340: Mr. ROSS of Arkansas, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 1351: Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1370: Mr. FINCHER.
H.R. 1389: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1465: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 1489: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California and Mr. DEFazio.
H.R. 1509: Mr. PAUL, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, and Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 1547: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1550: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 1588: Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 1606: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1639: Mr. GRIFFITH of Virginia, Mr. GIBBS, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 1653: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, and Mr. WHITFIELD.
H.R. 1683: Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 1704: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Ms. HIRONO.
H.R. 1723: Mr. LANKFORD.
H.R. 1756: Mr. HARRIS.
H.R. 1776: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 1780: Mr. CICILLINE and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
H.R. 1792: Ms. SCHWARTZ.
H.R. 1801: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1848: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H.R. 1865: Mr. NUGENT, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HUELSKAMP, and Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 1903: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 1909: Mr. SCHWEIKERT and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1946: Mr. WELCH.
H.R. 1947: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1971: Mr. WELCH and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 1980: Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HULTGREN, and Mr. PASCARELL.
H.R. 1996: Mr. HULTGREN, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. FLORES, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. FLEMING, and Mr. CANSECO.
H.R. 2005: Mr. SABLAN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. REYES.
H.R. 2020: Mr. KISSELL and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 2033: Mrs. LOWEY.
H.R. 2040: Mrs. LUMMIS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee, and Mr. GINGREY of Georgia.
H.R. 2059: Ms. FOXX, Mr. BONNER, Mr. CARTER, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MARINO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mrs. BLACK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. CANSECO, Mr. COBLE, and Mr. SENSENBRENNER.
H.R. 2068: Mr. GARDNER.
H.R. 2123: Mr. TIERNEY.
H.R. 2134: Mr. TONKO.
H.R. 2139: Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. SCHILLING, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. KEATING, and Mr. BASS of New Hampshire.
H.R. 2140: Ms. DELAURO, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2159: Mr. LANGEVIN.
H.R. 2164: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2167: Mr. WELCH, Mr. BOREN, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 2168: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 2250: Mr. ROONEY, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 2257: Mr. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NUNNELEE, Mr. FORBES, and Mr. WALSH of Illinois.
H.R. 2308: Mr. GRIMM.
H.R. 2324: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 2346: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2349: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 2369: Mrs. BLACK, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. WEBSTER, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina.
H.R. 2381: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2426: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 2433: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio.
H.R. 2444: Mr. LUJÁN.
H.R. 2446: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 2471: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 2479: Mr. CICILLINE.
H.R. 2492: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 2497: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 2501: Mr. COHEN, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. CHU, Mr. OLVER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. BASS of California, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 2512: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 2514: Mr. GOWDY.
H.R. 2528: Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 2541: Mr. DICKS, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. PETERSON, Mr. GOODLATTE, and Mr. JONES.
H.R. 2543: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 2614: Mr. POLIS.
H.R. 2657: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 2679: Mr. FARR.
H.R. 2681: Mr. AUSTRIA and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 2721: Mr. HALL and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 2731: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 2745: Mr. AMODEI.
H.R. 2752: Mr. BENISHEK.
H.R. 2772: Mr. GUINTA.
H.R. 2774: Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HARRIS, and Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 2787: Mr. LUJÁN and Mr. PASTOR of Arizona.
H.R. 2852: Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.
H.R. 2854: Mr. GIBSON, Ms. FOXX, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CANSECO, and Mr. WESTMORELAND.
H.R. 2856: Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 2865: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H.R. 2866: Ms. RICHARDSON and Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado.
H.R. 2881: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 2885: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ISSA, and Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 2888: Mr. JONES and Mr. HUNTER.
H.R. 2914: Mr. WELCH and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 2919: Mr. LONG.
H.R. 2926: Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. CANSECO.
H.R. 2948: Mr. GARAMENDI and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 2951: Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan.
H.R. 2952: Mr. KLINE and Mr. NUNNELEE.
H.R. 2954: Mr. WELCH, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. BECERRA.
H.J. Res. 13: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. WOMACK.
H. Con. Res. 72: Mr. OLVER and Ms. CHU.
H. Res. 16: Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina.
H. Res. 130: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H. Res. 134: Mr. CROWLEY.
H. Res. 137: Mr. MARKEY.
H. Res. 177: Mr. PETERS, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. AUSTRIA.
H. Res. 255: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H. Res. 365: Mr. CONYERS.
H. Res. 367: Mr. BARLETTA and Mr. CARNEY.
H. Res. 394: Mr. GUINTA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. LONG, Mr. AUSTRIA, Mr. GRIMM, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. CANSECO, and Mr. CAMPBELL.
H. Res. 397: Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FARR, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. CONYERS.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

OFFERED BY MR. CAMP

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Ways and Means, in H.R. 2943, the Short-Term TANF Extension Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

OFFERED BY MR. RYAN OF WISCONSIN

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on the Budget, in H.R. 2943, the Short-Term TANF Extension Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

The amendment to be offered by Representative RUSH, or a designee, to H.R. 2401, the TRAIN Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.